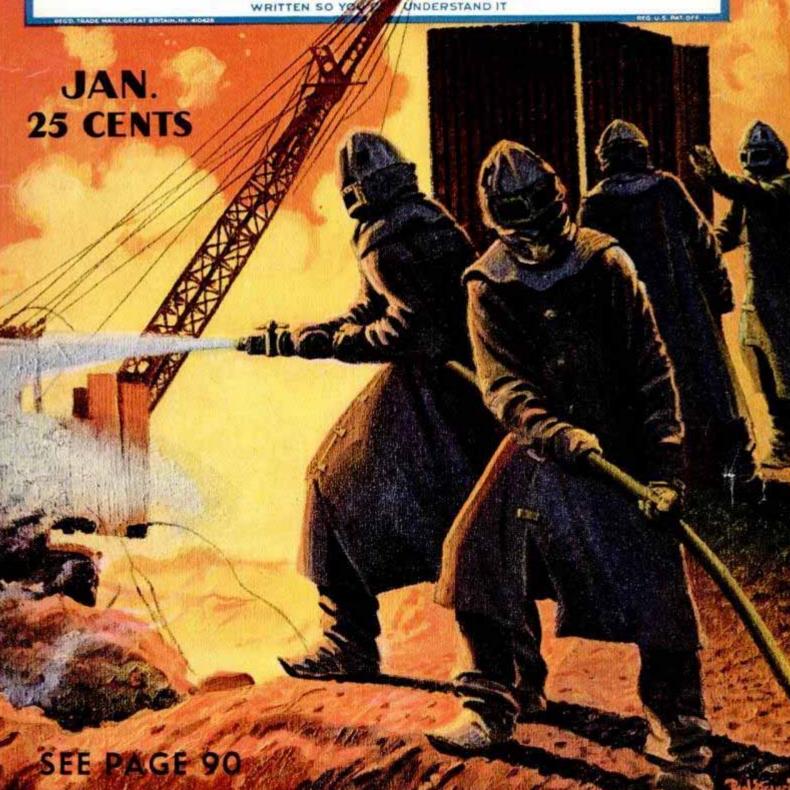
# TRACKERS OF THE HIGHWAY

# POPULAR MECHANICS WRITTEN SO YOU UNDERSTAND IT



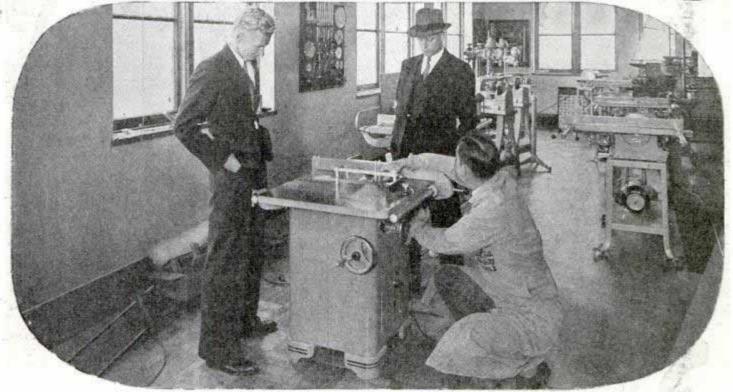
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# Popular Mechanics Magazine

H. H. WINDSOR, Founder

H. H. WINDSOR, Jr., Editor and Publisher

January, 1939

Vol. 71, No. 1

## Special Features

Making Metal Smoot	h as	Gl	ass	•	-	1
Teaching Wild Anim	als N	Vew	Stu	unt	s - F	loto
Moving the Earth -		-		-	-	18
Flying Above the W	eath	er	•	-		24
Trackers of the High	way	-	-	-	-	34
New Jobs on the Hig	sh Se	eas	•			40
Picture Your Family						45
Mining a Glacier -	-	-	-	-	-	51
A New Frontier -			-	-	•	57
"Minnies" Supply Pu	unch	to	Mo	ovie	es	66
"They're Off!" to Ne	w T	hri	11s	-	-	72
The Latest in Aviation	n R	adi	0	-		83
Taming Wild Wells	-	-	-	-	-	90

(Continued on next page)

#### Check and Double-Check

BENNY HOWARD, test pilot who is putting the forty-two passenger, 65,000-pound Douglas DC-4 through its paces says test-flying a new airplane is not the dashing, heroic business which most people think it is. A test pilot, it seems, does not whisk an unproved plane into the sky and try to dislodge an engine or snap a wing. The whole idea of testing is to put a plane through its paces safely. If the stalling characteristics of the DC-4 are to be determined, Mr. Howard does not take this flying laboratory and its tons of instruments aloft, point its nose straight up and await developments. He creeps up on the stall. As a result, when he stalls, he knows how he is going to get out. In "Check and Double-Check" in the February issue. Mr. Howard takes you for a test flight in the biggest land plane ever constructed on this continent.

#### Next Month

ONE of the most difficult tunneling jobs in construction history is nearly completed—a thirteen-mile bore through rugged Mount San Jacinto, east of Los Angeles. This tunnel is the major link in a 400-mile chain of tunnels, canals, siphons, conduits and distributing lines which will transport a million gallons of water daily. An article in the February issue tells how human moles have licked "ol' man mountain."

### Taming a Wild River

FOR generations the raging Colorado was known as America's wildest stream. Today this renegade among rivers has been tamed. Its once destructive energy is harnessed to do monumental tasks and the puny hands of a few score of men, backed by the mighty strength of Boulder dam, now direct its almost limitless force. An article next month describes the operation of the dam which has tamed the Colorado.

## Man's Mightiest 'Eye'

THE greatest telescope ever dreamed of, a \$6,000,000 giant that "couldn't be built," soon will be sweeping the skies. Among other things, astronomers hope to discover millions of new star systems. The 200-inch reflecting telescope on Mount Palomar in California is described next month in an article illustrated by eight pages of Coloroto pictures.

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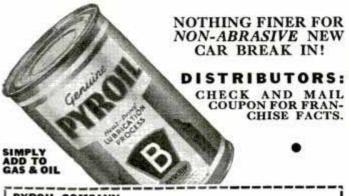
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## FAMOUS EXPLORERS USE PYROIL ON SOUTH POLAR EXPEDITION

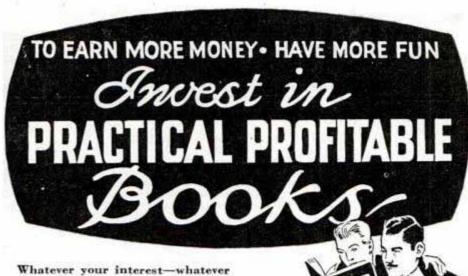
Commander Lincoln Ellsworth and Sir Hubert Wilkins tested Pyroil, took it with them on their daring trek into the Antarctic—for protection to motor equipment operating in frigid cold.



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#### (Contents—Continued)

AUTOMOTIVE	
Fan-belt vacuum pump drives windshield wiper	22
Motors measured to find hidden troubles	23
"Cop" on beat motorized to save time	27
Suction grip for removing headlight lens	27
Detachable drawbar for trailer	30
Front-wheel-drive motorcycle	30
Midget car built from junk	38
Stainless steel cable saves drain on battery	49
Air circulator warms rear seat of car	76
Tire chain installed without lifting wheel	76
Racing car built of odds and ends	78
Non-skid traffic marker set in pavement	79
Colored mirrors in road show highway ahead	86
Portable auto brake tester	88
LULTION	
AVIATION	00
Meter forewarns pilot when pilot approaches stall	28
Ramp submerges to lift ship from water	30
Automatic fuel system for planes	39
Giant landplane carries forty-two passengers	54
Single-seat fighters lead aerial offense	60
Latest war planes fly six miles a minute	61
Automatic direction finder helps pilot	71
Divers put wheels on flying boats	89
Automatic parachute opens itself	94
BOATS	
Stainless steel lifeboat	22
Liner measures depths of sea with echometer	32
Fireboat hangs 20,000-gallon water screen	39
Latest liner is larger than the "Queen Mary" Giant boilers to drive the "Queen Elizabeth"	62
Giant hoilers to drive the "Oueen Flizabeth"	63
Nickel-lined cargo ship built like submarine	65
"Bluebird" sets new world record	78
Ship speed raised by blisters on hull	96
omp speed raised by busters on num	50
CONSTRUCTION	
Airport runway made of cotton	48
Two-mile conveyor belt hauls sand to dam	71
Earth crust's strength found by builder's tester	77
Bookshelves of library form framework of building.	79
FARMS	NEGEN
Low cost insect sprayer uses auto exhaust	32
Plant roots fed from tank attached to hose	76
Mechanical reaper cuts sugar cane	80
The state of the s	00
Pink and blue potatoes developed	81
Pink and blue potatoes developed	
Pink and blue potatoes developed	81
Pink and blue potatoes developed	81 86
Pink and blue potatoes developed	81 86 28
Pink and blue potatoes developed	81 86 28 33
Pink and blue potatoes developed	81 86 28 33 60
Pink and blue potatoes developed	81 86 28 33 60 65
Pink and blue potatoes developed	81 86 28 33 60 65 86
Pink and blue potatoes developed	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87
Pink and blue potatoes developed	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87
Pink and blue potatoes developed	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose  PHOTOGRAPHY	81 86 33 60 65 86 87 87 96
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 96
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 96
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof.	81 86 33 60 65 86 87 87 96 56 64
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 96 50 56 64 65
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging.	81 86 33 60 65 86 87 87 96 50 56 64 65 95
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 96 56 64 65 95
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 96 56 64 65 95
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 96 56 64 65 95
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator. Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals. Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY Candid X-ray camera	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 96 56 64 65 95
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator. Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals. Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY Candid X-ray camera	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 96 56 64 65 95 95
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 96 50 56 64 65 95 95 96
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment. Five-barred neon traffic light Electric secretary takes dictation in plane or car.	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 96 50 64 65 95 95 96 29 38 85 48 54
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment. Five-barred neon traffic light Electric secretary takes dictation in plane or car.	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 96 50 64 65 95 95 96 29 38 85 48 54
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals Camera "sees" high power in insulated test  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment. Five-barred neon traffic light	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 96 56 64 65 95 95 96 29 38 48 54 56
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment. Five-barred neon traffic light Electric secretary takes dictation in plane or car Electric robot answers questions of Fair visitors. Telegraph typewriter sends message Shielded loop antenna built into console	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 96 50 56 65 95 95 96 29 38 48 54 56 64 97
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture. Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment. Five-barred neon traffic light Electric secretary takes dictation in plane or car. Electric robot answers questions of Fair visitors. Telegraph typewriter sends message Shielded loop antenna built into console. How to build a 9-tube broadcast receiver.	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 87 96 50 56 64 59 59 59 59 59 69 59 69 59 69 59 69 59 59 59 59 59 59 59 59 59 59 59 59 59
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment. Five-barred neon traffic light Electric secretary takes dictation in plane or car Electric robot answers questions of Fair visitors. Telegraph typewriter sends message Shielded loop antenna built into console	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 87 96 50 56 64 59 59 59 59 59 69 59 69 59 69 59 69 59 59 59 59 59 59 59 59 59 59 59 59 59
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer motches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment. Five-barred neon traffic light Electric secretary takes dictation in plane or car. Electric robot answers questions of Fair visitors. Telegraph typewriter sends message Shielded loop antenna built into console. How to build a 9-tube broadcast receiver. How to build a photocell relay. Practical radio suggestions	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 96 56 64 65 95 95 96 29 38 48 54 56 64 97 98 98 98 98 98 98 98 98 98 98 98 98 98
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment. Five-barred neon traffic light Electric secretary takes dictation in plane or car. Electric robot answers questions of Fair visitors. Telegraph typewriter sends message Shielded loop antenna built into console. How to build a 9-tube broadcast receiver. How to build a photocell relay Practical radio suggestions All-wave radio interference filter	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 96 56 64 65 95 95 95 96 29 38 48 56 64 97 98 98 101 101 101 101 101 101 101 101 101 10
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals Camera "sees" high power in insulated test  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment. Five-barred neon traffic light Electric robot answers questions of Fair visitors. Telegraph typewriter sends message Shielded loop antenna built into console How to build a 9-tube broadcast receiver How to build a photocell relay Practical radio suggestions All-wave radio interference filter Battlefield relics found with metal locator.	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 96 50 56 64 65 95 95 95 96 29 38 48 54 66 67 97 98 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 10
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment. Five-barred neon traffic light Electric secretary takes dictation in plane or car. Electric robot answers questions of Fair visitors. Telegraph typewriter sends message Shielded loop antenna built into console. How to build a 9-tube broadcast receiver. How to build a photocell relay. Practical radio suggestions All-wave radio interference filter Battlefield relics found with metal locator. Four-tube receiver built into floor lamp.	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 87 87 96 50 64 65 95 95 96 29 38 56 64 64 97 98 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 10
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals Camera "sees" high power in insulated test  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment. Five-barred neon traffic light Electric robot answers questions of Fair visitors. Telegraph typewriter sends message Shielded loop antenna built into console How to build a 9-tube broadcast receiver How to build a photocell relay Practical radio suggestions All-wave radio interference filter Battlefield relics found with metal locator.	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 87 87 96 50 64 65 95 95 96 29 38 56 64 64 97 98 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 10
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY  Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment. Five-barred neon traffic light Electric secretary takes dictation in plane or car. Electric robot answers questions of Fair visitors. Telegraph typewriter sends message Shielded loop antenna built into console. How to build a 9-tube broadcast receiver How to build a photocell relay. Practical radio suggestions All-wave radio interference filter Battlefield relics found with metal locator. Four-tube receiver built into floor lamp. Portable battery receiver employs low-drain tubes.	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 87 87 96 50 64 65 95 95 96 29 38 56 64 64 97 98 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 10
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment. Five-barred neon traffic light Electric secretary takes dictation in plane or car. Electric robot answers questions of Fair visitors. Telegraph typewriter sends message Shielded loop antenna built into console. How to build a 9-tube broadcast receiver. How to build a photocell relay. Practical radio suggestions All-wave radio interference filter Battlefield relics found with metal locator. Four-tube receiver built into floor lamp. Portable battery receiver employs low-drain tubes.  SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 87 96 50 56 64 65 95 95 96 29 38 56 64 64 97 98 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 10
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY  Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment. Five-barred neon traffic light Electric secretary takes dictation in plane or car. Electric robot answers questions of Fair visitors. Telegraph typewriter sends message Shielded loop antenna built into console. How to build a 9-tube broadcast receiver. How to build a 9-tube broadcast receiver. How to build a photocell relay. Practical radio suggestions All-wave radio interference filter Battlefield relics found with metal locator Four-tube receiver built into floor lamp. Portable battery receiver employs low-drain tubes.  SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY Telescope mirror finished in chromium bath.	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 87 96 50 56 64 65 95 95 96 29 38 56 64 64 97 98 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 10
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY  Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment. Five-barred neon traffic light Electric secretary takes dictation in plane or car Electric robot answers questions of Fair visitors. Telegraph typewriter sends message Shielded loop antenna built into console. How to build a 9-tube broadcast receiver. How to build a 9-tube broadcast receiver. How to build a photocell relay Practical radio suggestions All-wave radio interference filter Battlefield relics found with metal locator. Four-tube receiver built into floor lamp Portable battery receiver employs low-drain tubes.  SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY Telescope mirror finished in chromium bath. Retriever bullet samples rock in oil well.	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 96 56 64 65 95 95 96 29 38 48 48 56 64 97 98 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 10
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer motches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals. Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY  Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment. Five-barred neon traffic light Electric secretary takes dictation in plane or car. Electric robot answers questions of Fair visitors. Telegraph typewriter sends message Shielded loop antenna built into console. How to build a 9-tube broadcast receiver. How to build a photocell relay. Practical radio suggestions All-wave radio interference filter Battlefield relics found with metal locator. Four-tube receiver built into floor lamp. Portable battery receiver employs low-drain tubes.  SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY Telescope mirror finished in chromium bath. Retriever bullet samples rock in oil well. Radioactive grease finds flaw in metal.	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 96 50 56 64 65 95 95 96 29 38 48 54 69 69 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 10
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY  Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture. Film viewer motches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY  Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment. Five-barred neon traffic light Electric secretary takes dictation in plane or car. Electric robot answers questions of Fair visitors. Telegraph typewriter sends message Shielded loop antenna built into console. How to build a 9-tube broadcast receiver. How to build a 9-tube broadcast receiver. How to build a photocell relay. Practical radio suggestions All-wave radio interference filter Battlefield relics found with metal locator. Four-tube receiver built into floor lamp. Portable battery receiver employs low-drain tubes.  SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY Telescope mirror finished in chromium bath. Retriever bullet samples rock in oil well. Radioactive grease finds flaw in metal. Electronic microscope	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 87 96 50 56 64 59 59 59 59 60 101 102 102 102 102 102 102 102 102 10
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer motches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals. Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY  Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment. Five-barred neon traffic light Electric secretary takes dictation in plane or car. Electric robot answers questions of Fair visitors. Telegraph typewriter sends message Shielded loop antenna built into console. How to build a 9-tube broadcast receiver. How to build a 9-tube broadcast receiver. How to build a photocell relay. Practical radio suggestions All-wave radio interference filter Battlefield relics found with metal locator. Four-tube receiver built into floor lamp. Portable battery receiver employs low-drain tubes.  SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY  Telescope mirror finished in chromium bath. Retriever bullet samples rock in oil well. Radioactive grease finds flaw in metal. Electronic microscope Hosiery fiber made from coal.	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 87 87 96 50 64 65 95 95 96 29 38 56 64 97 98 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 10
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer.  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator. Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer notches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY  Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment. Five-barred neon traffic light Electric secretary takes dictation in plane or car. Electric robot answers questions of Fair visitors. Telegraph typewriter sends message Shielded loop antenna built into console. How to build a 9-tube broadcast receiver. How to build a photocell relay. Practical radio suggestions All-wave radio interference filter Battlefield relics found with metal locator. Four-tube receiver built into floor lamp. Portable battery receiver employs low-drain tubes.  SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY Telescope mirror finished in chromium bath. Retriever bullet samples rock in oil well. Radioactive grease finds flaw in metal. Electronic microscope Hosiery fiber made from coal Winch truck hauls 55,000-pound load	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 87 96 56 64 65 95 95 96 29 38 48 48 97 102 102 102 102 102 102 102 102 102 102
Pink and blue potatoes developed Adjustable stilts for tree trimmer  HOUSEHOLD  Pushbutton faucet cap for bottle Motorless dishwasher uses soap and water pressure. Folding clothes-closet rack eliminates crowding. Mop with wringer attached Electric doorknob lights keyhole Adjustable step makes ladder safer. Portable electric oven Venetian blinds of washable cellulose.  PHOTOGRAPHY Photo enlargement calculator Two-tone tongs for darkroom Windshield camera snaps speeder with proof. Film viewer magnifies picture Film viewer motches negative for enlarging. Spoon for weighing chemicals. Camera "sees" high power in insulated test.  RADIO AND ELECTRICITY  Candid X-ray camera Glass yarn used to insulate electrical equipment. Five-barred neon traffic light Electric secretary takes dictation in plane or car. Electric robot answers questions of Fair visitors. Telegraph typewriter sends message Shielded loop antenna built into console. How to build a 9-tube broadcast receiver. How to build a 9-tube broadcast receiver. How to build a photocell relay. Practical radio suggestions All-wave radio interference filter Battlefield relics found with metal locator. Four-tube receiver built into floor lamp. Portable battery receiver employs low-drain tubes.  SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY  Telescope mirror finished in chromium bath. Retriever bullet samples rock in oil well. Radioactive grease finds flaw in metal. Electronic microscope Hosiery fiber made from coal.	81 86 28 33 60 65 86 87 87 87 96 56 64 65 95 95 96 29 38 48 48 97 102 102 102 102 102 102 102 102 102 102



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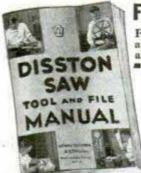
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(Contents—Continued)	
Invisible poison vapor detected by shadow Supersensitive radium detector Electric heart pumps blood through mechanical lung	78 80 81
SPORTS Rubber sheath protects gun sight from damage Rubber expansion strips to line tennis court Quick action fly-tying vise for fishermen	88
TOOLS Hand scraper with replaceable blades Clamp for splicing cable Table shaper for workshop "Iron alligator" cuts roots from sewer pipe Compressed air operates doors of tool chest Cylinder micrometer with dial indicator Electric paint gun has no compressor	
Miscellaneous Mi	79 80 81 82 86 88 94 95 95
(Craftsman and Shop Notes)	96
AUTOMOTIVE Altered piston forms sturdy grinder head	157 158 158 158 158 159 159 159 159 160
FARM Holder for grain sack	141
Percolator to cook stock feed Improving spiked calf weaner Combination wheeled mortar box and feed cart Fruit trees protected in winter by corn shock Hopper for pouring feed into hog trough Measuring lake shore line with wheels Permanent cold frame Fence post puller Large barn door opens easily with strap.	141 144 151 151 152 152 152 156
FURNITURE Desk and bench for the guest room	108

(Continued to page 8A)

## HOW SAFE IS



## YOUR JOB?

#### CAN YOU CLASS YOURSELF AMONG THE "OK-MUST KEEP!" EMPLOYEES?

USE dodging facts!

At times—in every company's history—the pay-roll goes onto the operating table for major surgery.

And when such times come, certain employees are

amputated-sometimes a few, sometimes many Yet a certain few are always marked "OK-Must Keep!" And the many who are let out envy them— call them "lucky."

#### What's Behind Job-Holding "Luck"?

It can be proved, however, that there's almost always

something more than luck involved.

Even the fellow who seems to "have a drag" may actually have a lot more on the ball than is apparent to his fellow workers

He may have hidden values that only his superiors

see or know about.

After all, the "I-Gotta-Drag-Club" has taken a bad In fact, it rather completely disbanded in licking. In 1932-1933.

Yet why is it that some employees hold their jobs at the very time when others of seemingly equal ability lose theirs?

If it's not luck, there must be some explanation.

And there is one!

#### How to Insure Your Job

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They have cause to agree with us that the real secret of both promotion and job security is just this: "On your present job, make sure you are doing it well, then train for the job ahead!"

#### Why It Works

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#### What You Should Do About It—

But true as these facts are, you probably will tend to

do nothing about them.

"My job is safe," you think. "My company won't cut down—and even if it does, I won't suffer."

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Addroos																											

1-39

#### (Contents—Continued)

,
Copper tubing flared with wood screw
HOME IMPROVEMENTS Breakfast nook housed in kitchen cabinet
"Rope ladder" shelves for door
OFFICE Rubber band holds pencils on drawing board107 Extra sheets for notebook perforated with pen point.130 Removing carbon paper from typewritten copies134 PHOTOGRAPHY
Dimming photofloods before exposure
POWER TOOLS
Pantograph drawer swings out from workbench
TOYS AND NOVELTIES
Fireplace screens
Stringing lamps in the garden
Radius arm improves dividers
Graphite lubricating pencils for small parts
Portholes for model boats
Chucking small irregular lathe work. 145 Paperhanger's paste bucket stand. 145 Guard on oilcan spout. 151 What you can do with a ring stand. 153 Wrist-strap mirror aids plumber. 154 Sash lifts form brackets for door bolt. 156

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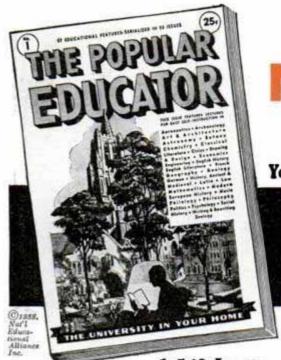
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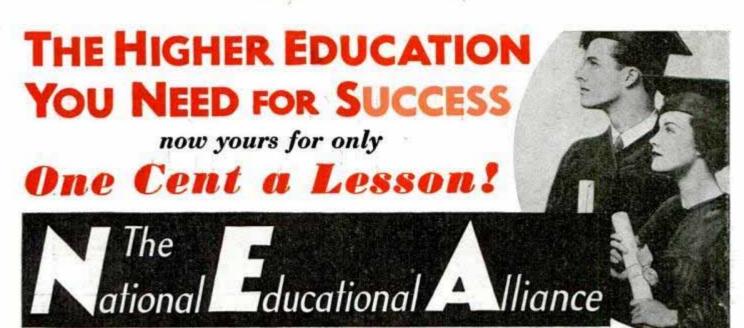
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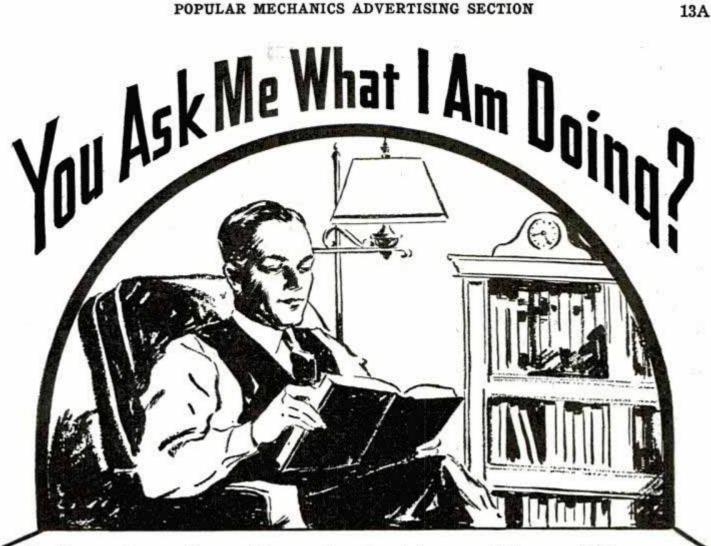
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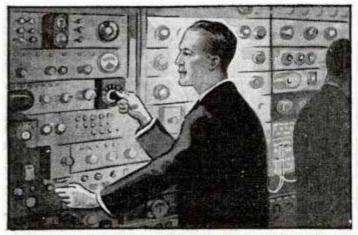
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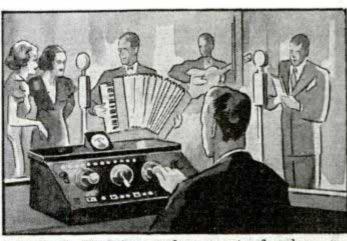
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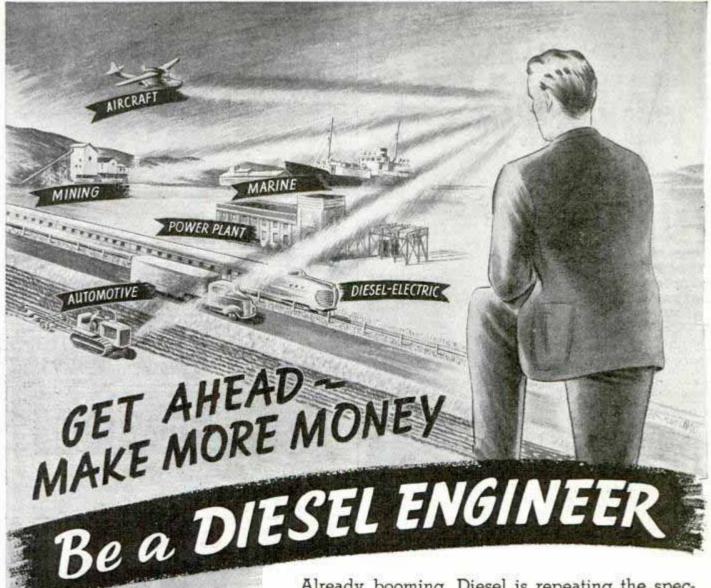
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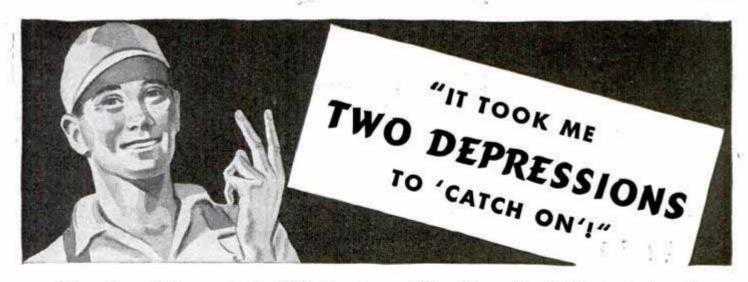
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frame, rests his feet on pivoted portions, as though he were riding a bicycle. The sled has ground-engaging parts for braking.

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garment made of light diffusing material and studded with light-reflectors. The garment is slipped over the standard uniform. Reflectors are attached at each shoulder and at



front and back, outlining the officer's figure in the lights of an approaching car.

COMPLETE silence at the bridge table, desirable from the standpoint of many



players, may be achieved through the use of a visible bidding machine patented recently. It consists of a circular box with a dial and pointer on top. Each player, in turn, operates

the dial to indicate his bid. Space is provided for "pass," "double," "redouble," and similar terms used in bridge bidding. In addition to bringing silence to the game, the bidder shows at a glance the suit and number of tricks bid, thus eliminating confusion.

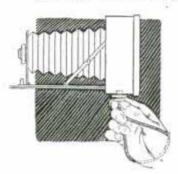
Duck hunters would find a newly patented device a convenience because

it provides for complete control of decoys. The equipment consists of an inclined line with a dead bird carrier, thus permitting the hunter to use dead birds instead of



wooden decoys. The line has means for controlling the position of the bird's head and neck to simulate life. This control is exercised by the hunter in the blind as the bird is carried down the line and into the water.

STEADINESS in holding the camera, greatly desired by the amateur pho-



tographer, may be achieved by using a newly patented support. It comprises a base with a handle and means for swivelly connecting the handle to the base. The handle loops

around the hand to provide steadiness while the camera is being operated. The support is designed for small cameras.

(Continued to page 33A)

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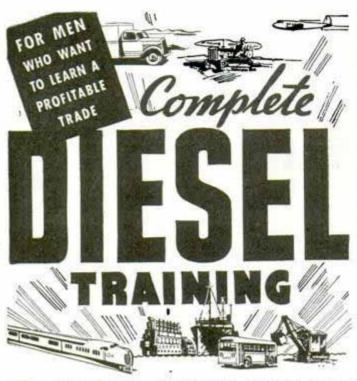
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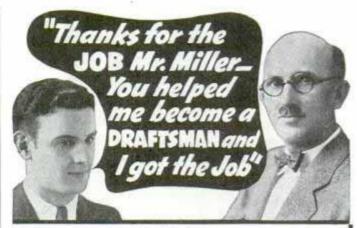
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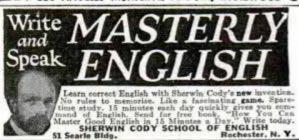
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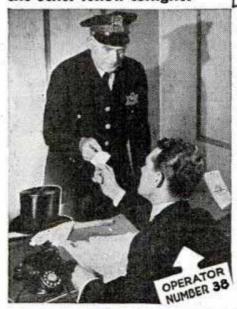
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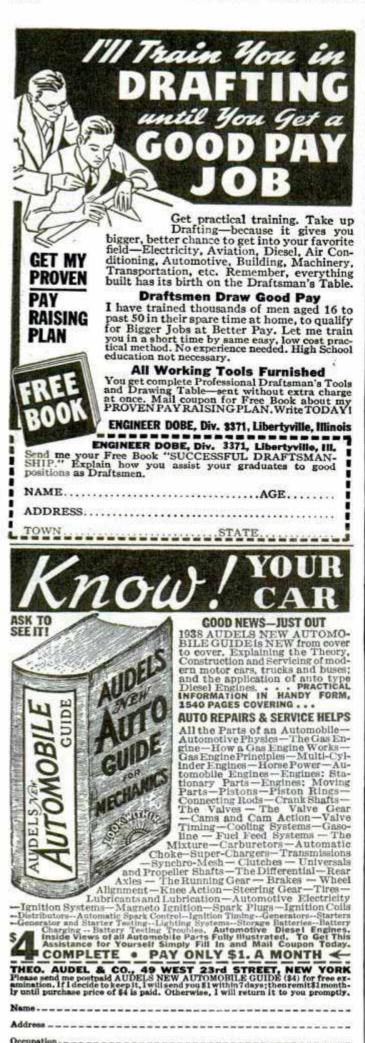
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2.	A train makes 3/5 of its trip in 54 minutes. In how many minutes will it make the entire trip?  Answer
3.	MAILBAG is to LOCK as LETTER is to (1) Stamp; (2) Seal; (3) Cancellation.  Number of Answer
4.	A letter is given special protection if mailed (1) Special Delivery; (2) Registered; (3) Air Mail.
5.	A clandestine meeting is one that is (1) Secret; (2) Accidental; (3) Romantic.
6.	If it takes 15 clerks, 30 minutes to sort a certain mail, how many clerks will be needed to sort the same mail in 25 minutes.  Answer

- AL TEST-7. Wheeling, W. Va., is (1) North; (2) South; (3) East; (4) West, from Trenton, N. J. Answer.....
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     When several work together the task is easier; (2) There are often too many on a job; (3) Most people prefer easy jobs. Answer.....

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Even in Below-Zero Weather, Outdoors

RUMFY WARMER—carried in pocket, glove, sock, stocking, shoe or boot, or hung inside clothing, keeps you comfortably warm outdoors even on coldest days. Heats itself in 10 seconds—STAYS WARM 12 HOURS at a time. Lasts years. ABSO-LUTELY SAFE—NO FLAME. Low-priced. GUARANTEED.

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#### NEW INVENTIONS 1

(Continued from page 20A)

MONG the latest patents is one issued for an improved toothbrush, the han-



dle of which is shaped so that the user is forced to grip it properly. In addition, the bristles are so arranged that the free ends of the tufts are shaped to define truncated

cones, with the tops and bases of the cones in parallel relation with the head of the brush. This arrangement, together with a trough-like formation for reception of cleansing material, such as paste or powder, is said to result in easier and more effective cleaning of the teeth.

HANGING to bathing suit and back again at the beach where dressing

rooms are not available is made possible by a recent invention. It is a knockdown dressing room adapted to coact with one door of an automobile. When occupied the



structure fits closely against the side of the auto to give complete privacy. It has a base or floor as well as a top. With both doors of the car open into the little room, there is ample space to change clothing in comfort.

FOR the home or apartment, a milkbottle holder designed for prevention



of theft has been patented. It consists of a metal frame that locks around the necks of two bottles. Bolted to the door frame, it frustrates the sneak thief attempting

to take the bottles from the door before the householder arises.

(Continued to page 52A)

# More GOOD JOBS in DRAFTING NOW! Calls for Draftsmen Are Increasing! Calls for Draftsmen Are Increasing! Want-ads prove it. Steel mills—railroads—buildings—all are 'on the up' . . all are calling for Draftsmen. New fields like Air Conditioning and Diesels join in the call—"Give us more trained DRAFTSMEN." Some who read this advertisement will do nothing. Others, smart enough to realize this means Opportunity, will Send A Post Card or Mail the Coupon for Free Trial Lesson. This Complete Drawing Out-fit, Tools and Table sent to Chicago Tech Home-Study

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students in Drafting.

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Drafting is clean, interesting professional-type work. It pays well to start . . . offers real opportunities for promotion. You need no previous training or experience . . . no special talent—to learn Drafting. It is one of the steadlest employment fields. No machine ever did the Draftsman's work . . and no machine can be invented. So your job is always secure.

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(or at the College in Chicago) by the fascinating, easy, step-by-step plan originated by this 35-year old school for Drafts-men. This is the way thousands of successful men started their careers. Begin yours without delay terms are low . . .



## Traffic Management Home-Study

## made interesting and practical thru problem method

Management TODAY is one of the important departments of business—that it is a profession offering unusual opportunities, and pays many men three, five and seven thousand dollars a year and more.

The only question is—just how practical is it to train yourself adequately in Traffic Management through home-study?

And the answer lies in the LaSalle Problem Method.

For this modern plan of training not only makes Traffic Management study at home thoroughly practical but makes it interesting as well.

#### You Learn by Doing

Suppose it were your privilege every day to sit in conference with a traffic manager or with a successful commerce practitioner. Suppose every day he were to lay before you his problems, and were to explain the principles by which he solves them. Suppose that one by one you were to work those problems out—returning to him every day for counsel and assistance—

Under the LaSalle Problem Method you pursue, to all intents and purposes, that identi-

cal plan.

Only—instead of having at your command the counsel of a single individual—one traffic expert—you have back of you the organized experience of a great business training institution, the authoritative findings of scores of able traffic executives, the actual procedure of successful practitioners.

Thus you are coached in the solving of the very problems you must face in the higher traffic positions. Step by step,

you work them out for yourself—until you have the kind of ability and experience for which business is willing and glad to pay real money—just as it was glad to pay these men.\*

#### Five Men Who Tested and Proved It for You

For instance, there was the traffic clerk—with two years experience—whom LaSalle training helped move up to Traffic Manager and to a salary increase of 100 percent.

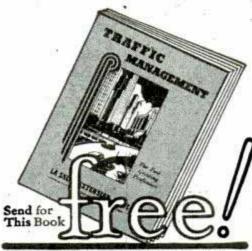
There was the railroad clerk who became Traffic Manager of a great organization with a salary several times his highest

expectation as a clerk.

And another railroad clerk who was earning \$55 a month and achieved an income of more than \$10,000 a year as head of his own traffic bureau.

Another man—already a successful, experienced traffic manager—cut his firm's freight costs from four percent of gross sales to two percent—on a sales volume running into millions—and his salary was more than doubled.

A fifth man-an assistant pur-



\*Names and addresses given on request.

chasing agent—seeing the need of a traffic department for his firm, took this training and sold the firm on the value of creating such a department. The new department promptly proceeded to save money—as high as \$50,000 a year—and the new manager was rewarded accordingly. Today he is Director of Traffic and Assistant to the General Works Manager—with several traffic men under his direction.

#### LaSalle-Trained Traffic Men Everywhere

LaSalle traffic men are found wherever traffic men find a field for their services. They are serving commercial and industrial organizations; railroads and other transportation companies; chambers of commerce; trade associations and state and federal commissions. They are officers and active members of traffic clubs and national traffic organizations, and registered practitioners before the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Knowing these facts, ask yourself if there can be any further question about the practicability of this training for you—ask rather if the real question is not about your own ambition and your determination.

For Traffic Management is no magic wand for the lazy or the fearful or the quitter—it offers success only to the alert adult who has the courage to face the facts and the will to carry on.

If you are that individual, the coupon below will bring the information that can open up to you the future of which you have dreamed—ability and income and success.

Is it not worth getting that information?

## LASALLE EXTENSION UNIVERSITY

A Correspondence Institution





Advertisements in this section, 35 cents per word, each insertion, minimum 10 words, payable in advance To be inserted under proper classification in February issue, copy should be in our office December 8th February issue on sale January 1st

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MANUFACTURE For us or sell direct to MANUFACTURE For us or sell direct to tomes and public buildings. A new invention. Made from discarded tin cans. Retails for 50c. Full particulars and sample \$1.00. Albright Specialty Co., Box 346, Burbank. Calif.

STEADY Money in showcards, signs, window lettering. Easy. Amazing details free. Write Nelson Company, 2027 Manhattan Building. Chicago.

REAL Moneymaking opportunities. Big

REAL Moneymaking opportunities. Big rofits. Write John Ystesund, Sheboygan, profits. W

M. M. Earned \$267, three weeks, raising mushrooms in cellar! Exceptional, but your cellar, shed perhaps suitable. We buy crops. Book free. United, 3848 Lincoln Ave., Dept. 67, Chicago.

LAWN Mowers, electric, gasoline. Dif-ferent, rotary, light, \$37.50 up. Cuts any-thing. Agents wanted. Manhart-Buckley, Brandeis Theatre Bldg., Omaha, Nebraska.

COLLECTION Agency work profitable. Easily started. Write, Carew, Rumson, N. J.

N. J.

IF You are ambitious you can make good money with a Rawleigh route. We help you get started. No capital or experience needed. Steady work for right man. Write Rawleigh's. Box A-2-PMB. Freeport. Ill.

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on. Indiana.

MAKE Money at home! Grow mushrooms in cellar or shed, with Ami U. S.Patented Mushroom Spawn and step-bystep, easy-to-follow Manual of Instructions. Fascinating, profitable. Booklet
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FLEXIBLE Mold material non shrinking, non warping, waterproof, keeps detail. Use over and over. Particulars, stamp. Thomas Sales, Box 656, Detroit, Mich.

EARN Up to \$500.00 back yard gardening. Stamp brings information. Lightning Speeds, Streator, Illinois.

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\$1.90 PROFIT On each \$2.00 mail order.
Guaranteed legitimate. Particulars free.
Pop-Director, Drawer 989, Edinburg, Tex.
"1939 BUSINESS Folio." Send for free
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MAKE 1939 Your "big-money-year" easily making today's greatest-selling products from latest certified formulas. Stamp brings valuable details. Miller, Chemist, 706-Jb, Tampa, Florida.

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OPPORTUNITIES In Southeastern Alaska. 24 page booklet, price \$1.00. Box 2241, Ketchikan. Alaska.

GO Into business for yourself. Book tells

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START Business anywhere—home—work fornings. Write Dunn, Box 74, Ionia, mornings.

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ELECTRIC Razor; guaranteed two years. Local and mail distributors wanted. Big Xmas demand. Sample \$1.50, dozen \$17.00. Sterling Co., 2000 Miramar, Los Angeles, Calif.

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Occupations, St. Paul, Minn.

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Mobile, Chicago.

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PRACTICAL Opportunity mail. One ear 10c. No trash. Beach, Box 156, Groyear 10c. ton, Conn.

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EARN Extra money at home. You can increase your income quickly and easily at home. Wentworth supplies you with work and furnishes all materials. Write today for free booklet. Wentworth Pictorial Co., Ltd., Dept. 71, Hamilton, Ont.

6 MAII. Order magazines including all you should know about mail order business 25c. Armand Cartier, 31 Cumberland St., Woonsocket. R. I.

MONEY In butterflies, moths. See Sin-

MONEY In butterflies, moths, See Sincair Display Advertisement on page 26A.

SELL By mail! For inspiring, constructive, instructive literature address Jay, 6054-p Kenwood, Chicago.

4 MONEY Making mail order plans. Big profits! Information, 25c. Specialty Services, 1416 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis.

MAKE Money electroplating! Marvelous patented invention plates with electric brush—easy as painting. Does same beautiful, permanent electroplating—gold, silver, nickel, cadmium, etc.—as big tank outfits. No liquids—lightweight—portable. Anyone can use from battery or household current. Only \$6.85 complete. Write for details and sample of work done. Warner Electric Co., 360 N. Michigan, Dept. D-11, Chicago.

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WE Help start you in business, furnishing outfits and instructions, operating "Specialty Candy Factory" home. Men and women, opportunity to earn \$20 to \$50 weekly, all or spare time. (Our 29th year.) Booklet free. W. Hillyer Ragsdale, Inc., Drawer 4, East Orange, N. J.

LEARN Arc welding. A growing industry with great opportunities. Consult your local school, or if there is none available write The Lincoln School of Welding, Dept. A, Box 5758, Cleveland, Ohio.

ADDED Income ideas. Mail Sales News magazine, copy 10c. Katz, 4254 No. Kim-ball, Chicago.

SUCCEED With your products. Make-sell them, Formulas, Processes, Accurate analyses, Catalog free, B. Thaxly Co., Washington, D. C.

COLOR Concrete with chemicals. Wishing-wells. Spin concrete pottery. Stucco-rock. Miniature castles, mills, cold glaze, marbling. Sample 10c. Hollywood Cement Craft, 8527 Wonderland, Hollywood, Calif.

MAN In each town to plate auto parts, reflectors, bicycles, fixtures, mirrors, by late method. Simple plan of manufacturing at home starts you in good paying business. Free particulars and proofs. Gunmetal Co., Ave. H. Decatur, III.

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MANUFACTURE From Phospholene. Cleaning fluid 1c gallon; bleach 2c gallon; hand soap 2c pound; and ten fast sellers. Sample 25c. Details free. Western, 6615 Denison Ave., Cleveland, O.

PLASTEX Industries offers industrious men an opportunity to start a business of their own, manufacturing art goods, novelties, souvenirs, etc., in Plastex and marble imitation. 5c material makes \$1 articles. Rubber moulds furnished for speed production. Small investment brings big returns. You are just in time for big wholesale season now starting. Write for interesting booklet mailed free. Plastex Industries, Dept. A, 1085 Washington Ave., New York.

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ton. Del.

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I WANT To send you proof of the wonderful pulling power of Popular Mechanics Magazine's classified pages. What's your proposition? Write me today. F. W. Johnson, Manager Classified Advertising, 200 E. Ontario St., Chicago, Ill.

INCORPORATE In Delaware, Liberal

INCORPORATE In Delaware. Liberal laws, low costs, Corporation Registration & Trust Company, 927 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware.

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ONLY 25c For tested money making formula. Grows plants in water indoors. Nursery Chemical Co., 488 E. 163 St., Bronx. New York.

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Wilbur Brubaker, Liberai, Kansas.

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PRO\$PERITY For home workers. 52 page magazine. Sample, dime. Sizemore, 4917 N. Kostner. Chicago.

ANALYSIS. Research. Newest guaran-teed formulas. Biggest catalog free. Spe-cial prices, leads. Gibson Laboratory, Chemists. CS-1142 Sunnyside, Chicago.

AMAZING Money making secrets. Particulars purple stamp. Century Service, 207 E. Ontario, Chicago.

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BIG Mailorder business. Home work.
Davis, 337 River, Orange, Calif.

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\$25.00 STAMPING Names, per 100 key-checks. Sample 25c. Outfits furnished. Bohn Company, P. M. Box 86, Wilkes-

300 MONEYMAKING Plans 25c. Literature 3c. Morrelle, 159-N State, Chicago.
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Lewis Co., 828-C Carpenter, Oak Park, Illinois.

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PENNIES In Hamilton scales produce assured income without canvassing or selling. 1910 Vermont, Toledo, Ohio.

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MAN In each town to plate auto parts, reflectors, bicycles, fixtures, mirrors, by late method. Simple plan of manufacturing at home starts you in good paying business. Free particulars and proofs. Gunmetal Co., Ave. N. Decatur, Ill.

RAISE Earthworms for profit. Information free, stamp appreciated. Bureau Zoological Research, 106A Broadway, Peoria, Ill.

WHOLESALE Sources, 500,000 articles. Free directory. Maywoode, 925 Broadway, New York.

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YUKON Radiator anti freeze, the pride of the north. Radiator troubles over, make your own. Formula \$1 bill. Write now. Jack Fidler, Box 65, Manchester, Conn.

224 FORMULAS Of Doctor Cummings, including personal consultation, five dollars; particulars stamp. You cannot get this collection elsewhere, but only directly from sole owner. Grinstead, 505 Fifth, New York.

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FORMULAS—Moneymaking, fast selling products. Literature free. J. Watson Com-pany, Stockyards Station, Kansas City, Mo.

ZEROL Anti-freeze, prevents frozen radiators to 40 degrees below zero. No alcohol. Won't rust. Complies with government standards. Manufacturing costs 15c gallon. Formula \$1.00 postpaid. Keystone Service. Topeka, Kansas.

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"ANYTHING In Formulas!" free. "Research Bureau." 1 Charlestown, Massachusetts. 100 Chelsea,

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SUCCESS Is sure with Miller's Certified Formulas with simplified manufacturing service. "Not cheapest, but best." Miller, Chemist, 706-Jf, Tampa, Florida.

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cago.

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FREE Cosmetic chemistry course to our December customers. Send 3c stamp for chemical catalog. Clinton Chemical Company, Swedesboro, New Jersey.

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SELL Sensational automobile accessory. Holds car on hill without use of foot or hand brake; frees right foot for gas; fits every make car; installed in five minutes. Our men earn \$50 to \$75 weekly. Protected territories. Small capital for stock required. Write for details. Everlast Manufacturing Company, 17 East 42nd Street, New York City.

IF You are ambitious you can make good money with a Rawleigh route. We help you get started. No capital or experience needed. Steady work for right man. Write Rawleigh's, Box A-2-PMA, Freeport, Ill.

212% PROFIT Selling amazing new liq-

212% PROFIT Selling amazing new liq-uid mender. Fixes most anything; unlim-ited demand. Write for free sample proof. Indiana Laboratories, Dept. T-19, Elkhart,

BEAUTIFUL English Christmas cards, excellent assortment 21 in holiday box, retail value \$2.25, agent's price 50c. Fast seller. Gold Shield Products, 350-P Greenwich St., New York.

AGENTS: Smash go prices! Santos coffee 12c lb. 4-oz. vanilla 8½c. Razor blades 10 for 8½c. 100 sticks chewing gum 12c. 150 other bargains. Premiums. Experience unnecessary. Carnation Company. PO. unnecessary. St. Louis, Mo. Carnation Company,

MAKE Quick profits demonstrating unique invention of electric bulb. A bright reading and current saving night light all in one. For free details and sample offer write Hagen Import, Dept. LB, St. Paul, Minn. Minn.

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STRANGE Chemical sponge cleans wall-paper like magic. Banishes housecleaning drudgery. Sensational demonstration. Sam-ples sent on trial. Rush name. Kristee, 101, Akron. Ohio.

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TIES. Wonderful proposition. Free samples. Eureka, 307 West 38th, Manhat-

500% PROFIT With new perfected (1938) quick-action, no flint, automatic gas lighter. Retails 25c. Sample 5c. New Method Co., Box PMG-73, Bradford, Penna.

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GUARANTEED Electric shavers. Tremendous Xmas seller. Sample \$1.98 postpaid. Plans free. 1917 South 70th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

WANTED—Purchasing agents, no experience or money required, write and mail 3c stamps for application to Purchasing Mgr., 176 N. Halsted St., Chicago.

SELL Artistic oil painted personal por-traits! Portraiture, 826 Noble, Chicago.

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I'LL Give you groceries at wholesale besides splendid opportunity to make up to \$45.00 in a week. Brand new Ford sedan given as bonus. Details free. Albert Mills, 3206 Monmouth, Cincinnati, Ohio.

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500% PROFIT. Modernistic guaranteed Stick-on letters for windows, offices, trucks, Large sizes 1c. Easily applied. Free samples. Modernistic. B-3000 Lin-coln, Chicago.

BIG Successful money-maker—Radiator Alcohol Seal—only 25c postpaid. Write quick. Midwest Sales, 1337 Monadnock quick. Midwest Block, Chicago.

205 MONEYMAKING Opportunities, to-day's conditions. Your own business, home, office, etc. Introductory booklet free. Stamforde, 3762-E Broadway, New York.

METROPOLITAN Window Letter Co. Two piece letters, penny each, free sam-ples. 1699 Lexington Ave., New York.

MILLIONS Of prospects! Buyers every-where! Sensational social security plates! Tremendous value! Fast seller! Big prof-its! Complete selling outfit free! Union its! Complete selling outfit free! Un Specialty, 1775-A Broadway, New York.

Specialty, 1775-A Broadway, New York.
WHY Sell goods with stingy profits?
Easily make today's newest profitable popular products yourself! Stamp brings valuable details telling how. Miller, Chemist, 706-Ja, Tampa, Florida.

ATHLETES Foot. Dime brings dollar package guaranteed Oldarme Australian. Mycolac, Importers, Atchison, Kansas.

NATIONALLY Advertised Elgin electric shavers (ac) for \$2.98. Year guarantee. Make \$1.00 profit each sale. Agents sample \$2.50. Specialty Products, Bourne, Mass.

WANTED—Reliable, ambitious men over 21 years of age with good car to travel in the country. Steady work. Write for particulars. G. C. Heberling Co., Dept. P.M., Bloomington, Illinois.

Bloomington, Illinois.

WE Are the originators of metal social security plates and cases. Ours outsell them all because we manufacture the best, 70% commission. Everlasting Records Co., 665 West Lexington St., Baltimore, Md.

MAKE More money! Selling a line no one else has! New and different radios, quick selling electrical appliances, attractive gift items. Write for catalog. Hart Products, 168 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago.

AMAZING Product, Amazing earnings. Year-round repeat business. Details free, Sample 35c. Lyle Products, Sarasota, Fla.

SALESMEN Wanted. Sell business cards, commission. Willmar Press. 674 Main St., Pawtucket, R. I.

MONEY In butterflies, moths. See Sinclair Display Advertisement on page 26A.

BABY Shoes plated bronze, silver. Life-time process. Agents sample \$1.50. Also general plating. Braun Electroplating, 118 E. 28th. New York.

COSTS 2c—Sells 25c. Fast selling neces-sity for agents, crews, demonstrators. Sample 10c. Linnell, Box 1963-E, Cleve-land Objo.

land, Ohio.

PARING Knife. New. Peels, slices, cores. 200% profit. Sample 10c. Three other household necessities. Apex Co., 400 Dakota Bldg., St. Paul, Minn.

PROFIT 100% Selling calling cards. Bonus, prizes to workers. Outfit free. Universal, Orange, Massachusetts.

PREE Sample world's best seller. G. Mfg. Co., Washingtonville, Ohio.

AGENTS — Opportunity make money; book containing 107 successful business plans; home-office; send for free introductory booklet. Elite Co., 214 Grand St., New York.

AGENTS Make big profits on food products, bargain deals. Low wholesale prices. Rush name for trial outfit offer. Ho-Ro-Co, 2810-R Dodier, St. Louis, Mo.

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STARTLING Invention—Pocket adding machine. Nationally advertised \$2.50. Whirlwind seller, Big profits. Baby Calculator Co., Box 1118, Chicago.

DO You want agents for your proposi-tion? Your ad in this space will place your message before hundreds of men seeking fast-selling products. My folder "How to Secure Agents," is filled with proof. I'll gladly send you a copy free. F. W. John-son, Manager Classified Advertising, Pop-ular Mechanics Magazine, 200 E. Ontario St., Chicago.

BIG Money applying initials on automobiles. Write for particulars and free samples. American Letter Company, Dept. 40. Dunellen, New Jersey.

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AGENTS—To mail our literature. Good profits. Home business. Maywood, 149 Fifth Ave., New York.

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Bros., Winthrop, Mass.

REVOLUTIONARY Window cleaning tool. Good Housekeeping approval. Only ten \$2.25 sales daily to housewives, factories, schools, stores will make you \$350.00 monthly. Carter Products Corp., 900 Front Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

GUARANTEED Gold leaf letters for store and office windows. 300% profit. Free samples. Metallic Co., 438-B N. Clark, Chicago.

ATLAS Window sign letters. Large sizes, penny each. Beautiful free samples. Atlas, 7941 Halsted. Chicago.

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SALESMEN—New money-making sensa-tion for garages, service stations, no com-petition, fine repeater. Automotive Lab-oratories, 1555 Hanchett Court, San Jose,

SELL Xmas cards, calendars, business cards \$1.50 thousand. Business stationery, book matches, advertising tape, paper towels, pencils, salesbooks, rubber stamps, free sales portfolio. 35% commission daily. Money making specials. David Lionel Press, 312 So. Hamilton, Dept. CL, Chicago. cago.

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DID You make \$50 last week? Does your job offer you real future? If not, why not start a wholesale business of your own? Start with little as \$2.50. Handle line 200 nationally advertised 5c-10c products. Show merchants new plan for increasing sales and profits. Handle everything from your home at start. Chance to operate one of our Silver Fleet service trucks. Facts free. World's Products Co., Dept. 1910, Spencer, Ind.

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\$6 TO \$15.00 Daily, new; quick sales. Resale item. Car dealers, garages, service station. Write Factory, 2812 Gilham, Kan-sas City, Mo.

IF You are ambitious you can make good money with a Rawleigh route. We help you get started. No capital or experience need-ed. Steady work for right man. Write Rawleigh's, Box A-2-PMS, Freeport, Ill.

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edger, Oblong, Ill.

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SALESMEN—Distributors, sell complete line automobile bulbs. Davis Lamp Co., 17 East 42nd Street, New York City.

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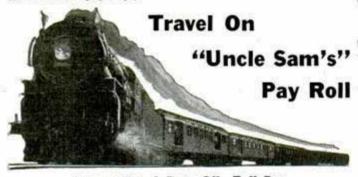
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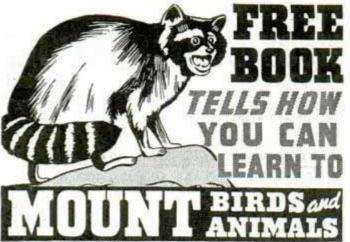
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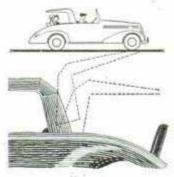
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(Continued from page 33A)

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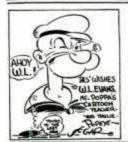
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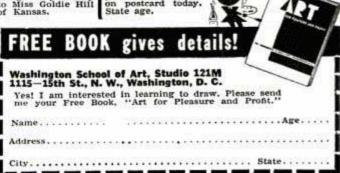
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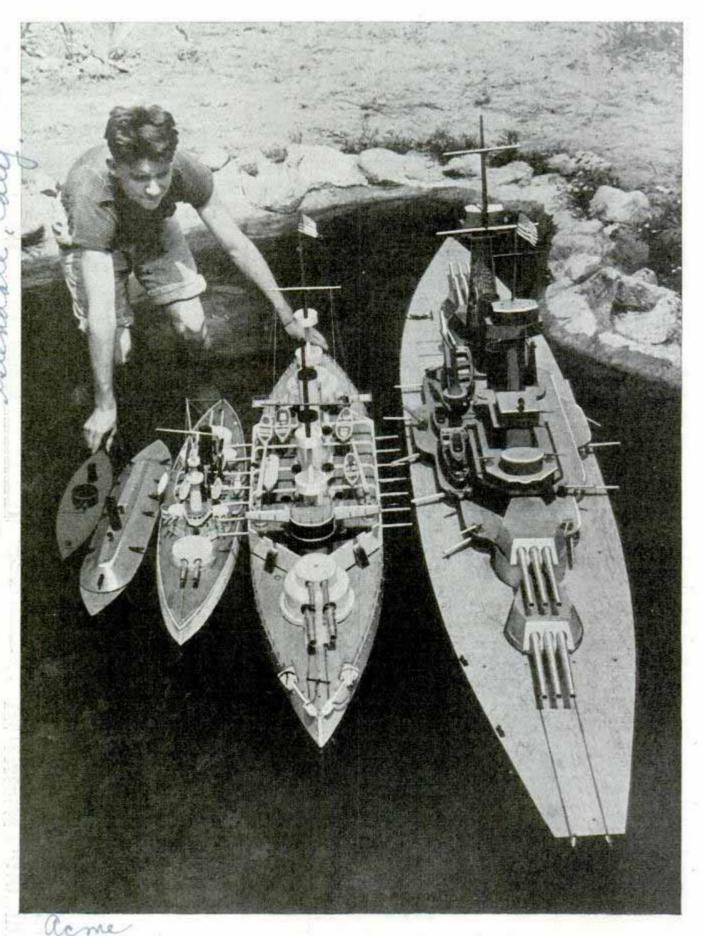
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These five scale models represent development of American battleships, from the "Monitor" and the "Merrimac" through the "Oregon" and the "Kentucky" to the "California," present flagship of the fleet. The "California" is driven fifteen miles per hour by a five-horsepower gasoline engine. Howard E. Bixby, builder of the midget navy, causes the "California" and the "Kentucky" to start, stop, maneuver and fire both main and broadside batteries as he stands on shore or rides near by in a boat. He uses a telephone dial or whistles, since the boats are controlled by radio and sound

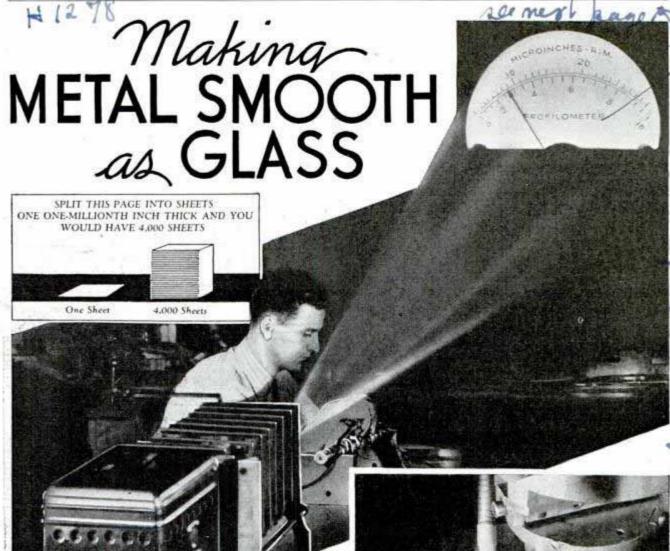
# Popular Mechanics Magazine

WRITTEN SO YOU CAN UNDERSTAND IT

Vol. 71

JANUARY, 1939

No. 1



#### By Julian Leggett

LONG the goal of scientists and the industrial world, a revolutionary process for commercially making the surface of any piece of metal as smooth as the finest optical glass has been discovered.

In addition to being more attractive to the eye, metal finished in this manner fits together more closely when used as moving parts in a machine. Three results of such precision manufacture will be: greatly increased life for moving parts, reduction in noise, and elimination of long "run-in" periods commonly employed to bring about quiet operation in new motors.

Top, measurement of surface smoothness projected on screen in millionths of an inch. Bottom, operator's reflection on Superfinished metal

MECHANICS yricerto



Base Metal 50 Micro-Inches

Top, left, measuring surface of piston pin with Profilemeter. Right, reflection of Superfinishing machine appears in photo of smoothly finished disk. Note mirrorlike appearance of disk

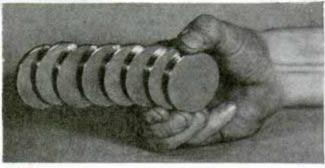
2 Micro-Inches

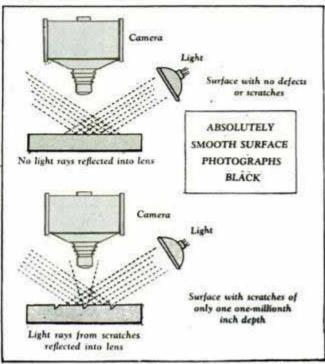
Above, comparison of surface having defects fiftymillionths of an inch high with surface Superfinished to two-millionths of an inch. Right, Superfinished disks held together only by adhesion of their own surfaces. Bottom, why smoothly finished surface photographs black

Although the satiny-looking surface of any metal object may appear to be as smooth as glass, you can prove that it isn't by scratching the finish gently with your fingernail. This simple test reveals tiny, invisible ridges and depressions which turn into mountains and valleys under the magnification of a high-power microscope.

When the surface of metal moving parts rub against each other in a machine, these microscopic jagged edges wear off gradually, no matter how well lubricated the parts are kept. Soon the little ridges are gone, tending to destroy the precision with which the parts were fitted together, and then the machine may begin to pound and vibrate, hastening the day when the parts will be worn out.

"Superfinish" is the name of the new process, which was developed under direction of David A. Wallace, President of Chrysler Division of Chrysler Corporation. Although it was devised for automotive





# application, it has almost unlimited possibilities in other fields, lending its magical touch to tiny parts for a watch, plungers for Diesel engines, moldboards for farm plows, stainless-steel sheets for the steel mills, paper rolls for the production of paper and the hub-bearing surfaces of a variable-pitch airplane propeller.

By this process, it is possible to achieve, in ordinary production, parts whose surface defects are as little as two-millionths of an inch deep, which for commercial purposes is regarded as perfect. In experimental work, finishes with ridges no more than two-tenths of one

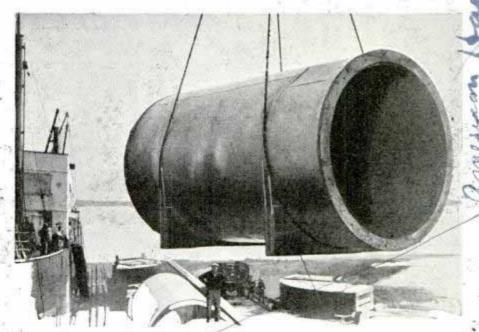
millionth of an inch have been produced. As a means of comparison, if the sheet on which this story is printed could be split into about 4,000 sheets, one of the superthin sheets would be approximately one millionth of an inch thick.

An optical glass finish can be produced upon flat, round, concave, convex and other types of surfaces, either external or internal, in three to thirty seconds. The operation is somewhat similar to wiping a glass surface lightly with a silk handkerchief to remove dust. After a metal surface has been finished by other means, the invisible ridges are reduced almost to the vanishing point by cutting stones running at amazingly slow speeds under extremely light pressure, ranging from a few ounces to a few pounds. A lubricant of the proper viscosity is used to wash away the cuttings and to hold the stones a sufficient distance from the surface to prevent new scratches. When the surface defects have been removed to the point where virtually all that is left is crystalline metal, the cutting action stops automatically.

Surfaces with the new finish are so nearly perfect, developers of the process say, that if they are kept properly lubricated, there is practically no measurable wear on

(Continued to page 147A)

# Yoke of Eleven-Foot Tubes Built for 200-Inch Telescope



Nineteen-foot section of yoke built for world's largest telescope is hoisted aboard ship at Philadelphia for the Pagama Canal and California

Some notion of the gigantic size of the 200-inch telescope being built at Mount Palomar, Calif., is obtained from a view of the huge tubes which form its yoke. Each sectional tube is eleven feet in diameter and nineteen feet long. The tubes and the horseshoe bearing for the telescope were built by the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing company and shipped from Philadelphia by way of the Panama Canal to California.

H1254

#### Automatic Rinser for Negatives Rocks under Water Stream



Rocking under the stream from the faucet, a rinsing pan for photographic films and prints keeps changing the water automatically. The pan is double, with a pivot under

the center wall. As a small stream from a faucet flows into one side the pan tips on the pivot and the stream is diverted to the empty side, and the process is repeated. Slots in the ends keep draining the water.

I. S. Wright due

POPULAR MECHANICS

# Giant Claws of Gyro-Tiller obtained Goor Churn as They Plow Earth door sition



David Lloyd George, wartime prime minister of Britain, supervises operation of huge gyro-tiller as it plows deep into soil of his farm

From the primitive plowshare and hoe to the mechanical gyro-tiller is a span of but a few years, yet a whole age intervenes. In sharp contrast with the laborious methods of hand-tilling, this crawling monster bites into the earth with giant rotating claws as it churns across the field. Preparing the ground for cultivation, it breaks a trail nearly five yards across.

#### Right Key Pops Out of Case When Button Is Pressed



Enabling the user to select the proper key for home, automobile or office without looking at the case, a new device expels the right key when a button is pressed. If three

keys are carried in the case, three buttons are provided, one for each key. Identifying notches on the case indicate to the user which button should be pushed to obtain the proper key. For instance, if the house door key is in the first position, the user simply presses the button with a single notch beside it. The case holds the keys firmly, insuring against loss.

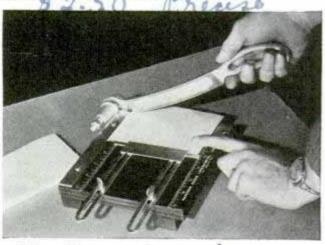
#### Engine's Whirling Cylinders Cool Spark Plugs

In the early days of aviation the "whirling nightmare" was a rotary engine that whirled, cylinders, propeller and all, a round a stationary crankshaft. A similar engine has just been developed for trial by the French air ministry, its cylinders revolving inside an outer casing, but in the new engine the crankshaft turns nine times as fast as the cylinders.

Sparking points are located in the casing; the cylinders take in gasoline and air, the mixture is fired, and the exhaust fumes pass out as the cylinders rotate.

#### Trimming Board for Photos Has Adjustable Guides

Precise trimming of photographs can be done readily with a cutting board that has adjustable guides for the paper. There are rulers at both top and bottom, and the guides can be squared accurately.



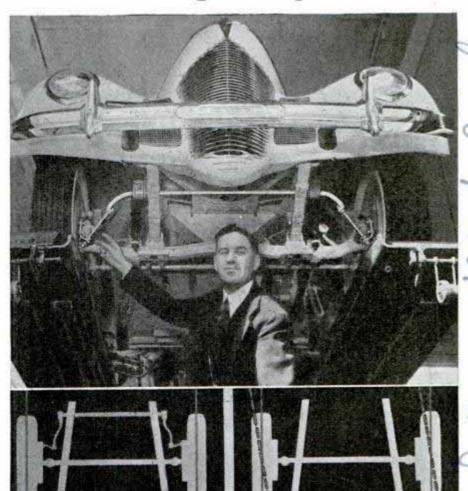
Adjustable paper guides assure en accurate trim

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#### Safety Bar Aids in Steering Straight Course

Designed to give greater control over the front wheels, a safety bar on one of the latest automobiles helps the driver steer in a straight line. The bar is attached to the frame across the front of the chassis with the ends angled backward to form lever arms exactly like the sway-bar. The ends of the levers, however, are connected by suitable links, not to the axle as in former practice, but to the wheel spindles. This attachment point is so located that as soon as anything turns the wheel from the straight-ahead position, whether it is the driver or wind or road shock, the bar is actually twisted like a spring and immediately it tends to pull the wheel back to center. This action, occurring directly at the wheel and not back at the steering gear where it

would have to operate through several joints as well as connecting links and bars, gives a remarkable result. No matter what tendency there is for the front wheels to depart from the straight-ahead position, it



Top, Hudson's front end, with steering stabilizer bar in white. Bottom, diagrams showing how bar helps steer straight course

is immediately corrected. The device constantly helps the driver with just the proper amount of self-steer and is particularly useful in cross-winds and on curves. It was designed by Hudson engineers.

#### Ten-Wheel-Drive Marsh Buggy Wades Bottomless Bog

Mud that would stop almost anything but ducks and frogs is a negotiable high-



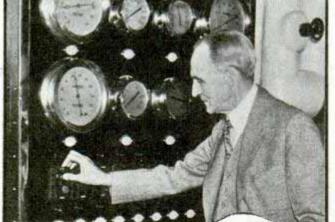
Ten huge tires on its ten driving wheels help this "marsh buggy" navigate almost impassable bog

way for the all-wheel-drive truck developed for swampland transportation. Built to accommodate from four to ten tires measuring thirteen and one-half by twenty-four inches, this marsh buggy can wade into apparently "bottomless" mud. Special axles and gears enable it to apply driving power to ten wheels, gaining traction through a marsh even with a load of men and machinery.

(Inquiries as to makers of articles described in Popular Mechanics, will be answered by our Bureau of Information upon receipt of return postage.

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400 H.P. MOTOR

Left, Henry Ford pushes switch to start 500-ton refrigerating system in huge new weather tunnel recently placed in operation at the Ford Motor company. The tunnel will produce virtually every conceivable weather condition, enabling engineers to test automobiles without waiting for nature to create the particular conditions desired. The refrigerating system is powerful enough to maintain a temperature of twenty degrees below zero. In addition, a "cold" chamber provides temperatures as low as forty degrees below zero for coldweather tests of engine, oil, battery and starter

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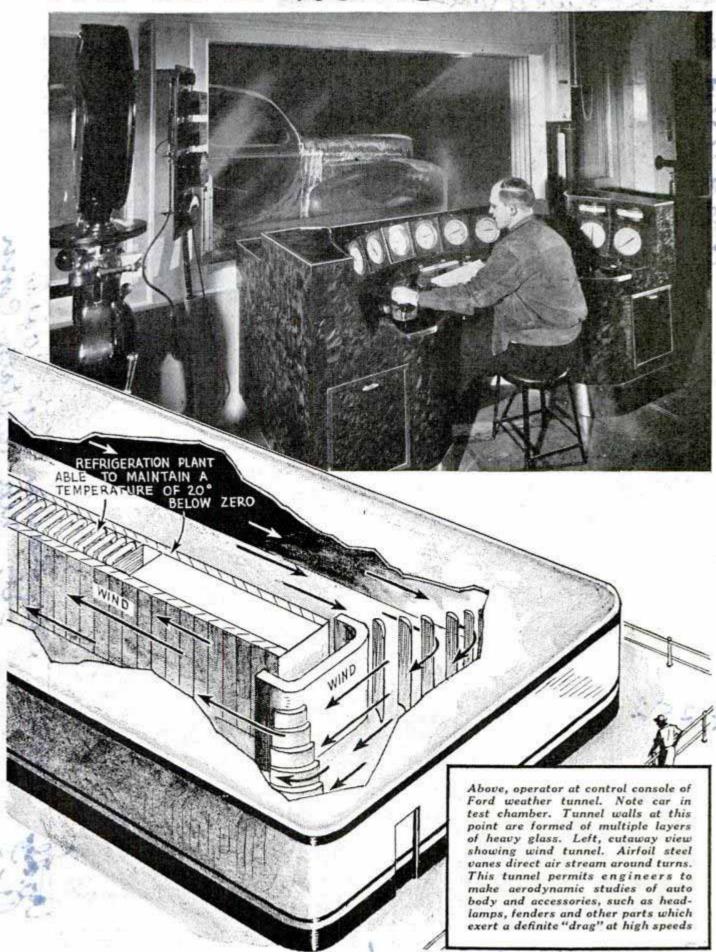
SAND AND DUST JET

CONTROL BOARD

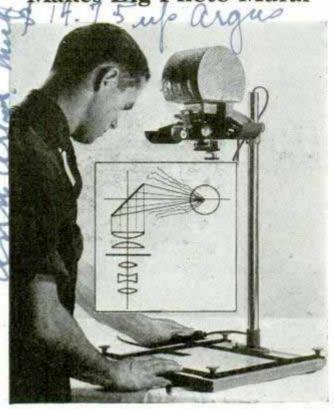
Center, control end of weather. tunnel, with automobile in test chamber. Note rain jets for subjecting car to rainstorm conditions, spout in floor for producing a duststorm, propeller for creating windstorm of eighty-five miles per hour, heating system which can raise temperatures to 150 degrees and refrigerating system for creating sleet or snowstorm conditions. Thus the tunnel may be used for making storms to order. Instruments on control board permit the taking of 100 readings of various conditions concerned with operation of the car. The vehicle under test is mounted on a treadmill connected with a dynamometer. Its spinning wheels turn the treadmill to record engine power output. The engine is controlled from board outside. At right, member of crew chipping away ice after test in below-zero "weather"



# MADE to ORDER



Enlarger Using Angle Light
Makes Big Photo-Mural



Enlarging from miniature film. The inset is a diagram of light system showing reflector and lenses

Miniatures can be made into photomurals with an inexpensive enlarger which employs reflected light instead of the conventional direct, diffused illumination, obtaining both coolness and flat brilliance. It is a thirty-five-millimeter enlarger, and by inverting its film holder, eleven-by-four-teen pictures or even photo-murals forty inches wide can be printed. The film holder is of Bakelite, a book-type device made without glass and therefore non-scratching and dust-free. It handles strip film or single negatives. A 100-watt prefocused projection lamp is used, at right angles to the optical system.

#### "Free-Wheeling" Paint Scraper Cleans with Whirling Teeth

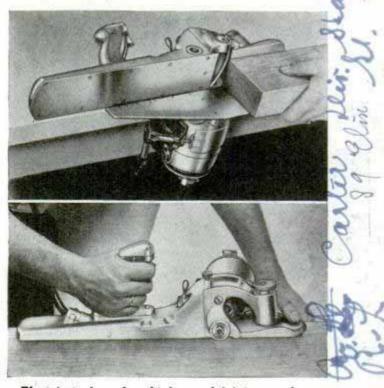


Paint, scale and rust can be removed economically with a mechanical "sand blaster" which employs whirling sawteeth instead of sand. Numerous

small cutting wheels are mounted loosely on a rotating head, and as the entire "cutting bundle" revolves at high speed the teeth are thrown outwards by centrifugal force, contacting the surface some 115,000 times per minute. Because of this loose mounting there is no gouging of the painted surface, and excessive wear on the cutters and overload of the motor are avoided. One man using the tool cleaned a 75,000-gallon tank with 3,250 square feet of surface in four days, a job that formerly took four men twelve days.

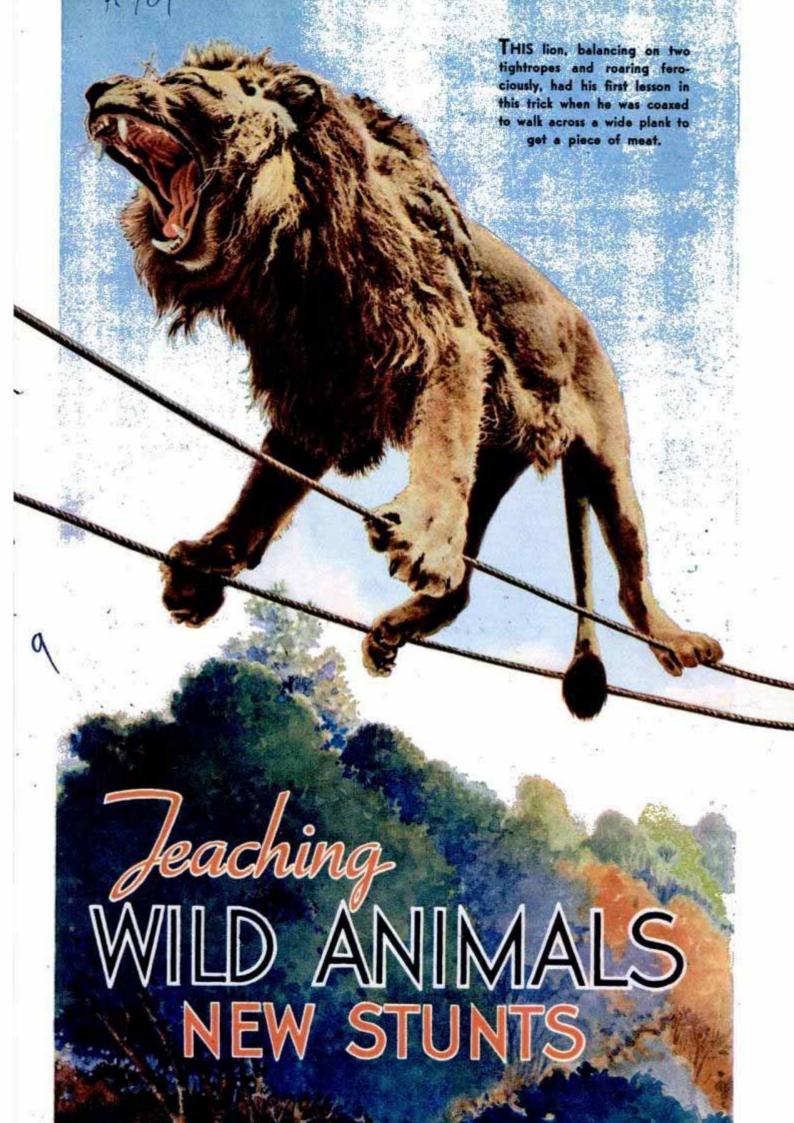
# Electric Plane Is Convertible into High-Speed Jointer

Capable of making a three-sixteenthsinch cut in soft wood, an electric plane just introduced will plane a surface two and one-half inches wide. Large but portable, it can be converted instantly into a highspeed jointer by using the bench bracket furnished with it. A one-horsepower universal motor drives its spiral cutter at 18,000 revolutions per minute, producing a smooth surface with or across the grain. An adjustable fence makes it possible to plane accurate bevel cuts up to forty-five degrees, and a micro-adjustment screw sets the front shoe for heavy or paper-thin cut. With a grinding attachment the plane sharpens its own cutter.



Electric tool used as high-speed jointer or plane. It can plane precise bevels to forty-five degrees

- hufa & Equipment





THIS trainer is working a group of "cats." The lions are called from the pyramid stand, one at a time, for individual performances.

IONS that walk tightropes and seals that ride horseback are two of the latest attractions produced by crack animal trainers. In the circus world, new bags of tricks are necessary every year or so, and now that motion pictures are demanding wild animals to do tasks that seem almost miraculous, trainers are "educating" their animals to perform stunts of which no one dreamed before.

I am El mite

Teaching a lion to walk two swaying tightropes high in the air seems like a nearly impossible task until an experienced trainer tells how he does it. Charles Gay, who has a tightrope-walking lion at his lion farm at El Monte, Calif., starts to teach his cubs tricks when they are nine months old, after their trainers have gained their trust through frequent petting and feeding.

"Teaching a lion to walk the tightrope

takes about six months of steady training," says Gay. "We start with a wide plank ten feet long on supports a few feet off the ground. We tempt the animal to walk this plank by leading it with a piece of meat. After it has learned it will be rewarded for walking, we remove a central support, allowing the plank to bounce and sway under the animal's weight.

"Next we substitute two narrow planks for the wide one, gradually training the lion to walk the narrower planks until he finds himself walking a couple of pieces of two by four planks. The next step is to substitute one and one-quarter-inch iron pipes, then thick steel cables which the lion can grasp with his non-skid pads, and finally the smaller cables on which he performs his act.

"During all this time we gradually lengthen and heighten the supports so the

101

animal finally learns to walk ropes twenty or thirty feet long that may be twenty feet in the air. During the first part of the training, the lion may take an occasional spill, so we use a pile of wood shavings under the planks as a safety mat."

Teaching a lion to walk along a row of stilts something like the top of a picket fence is done somewhat similarly. First, the animal is coaxed to walk across three low pedestals placed in a row. Then the pedestals are replaced with three higher and smaller ones. Additional groups of three are added to the row. As the animal progresses, in pursuit of a chunk of meat, the pedestals are gradually replaced with thinner supports until the lion learns to walk along a row of tall two by four planks.

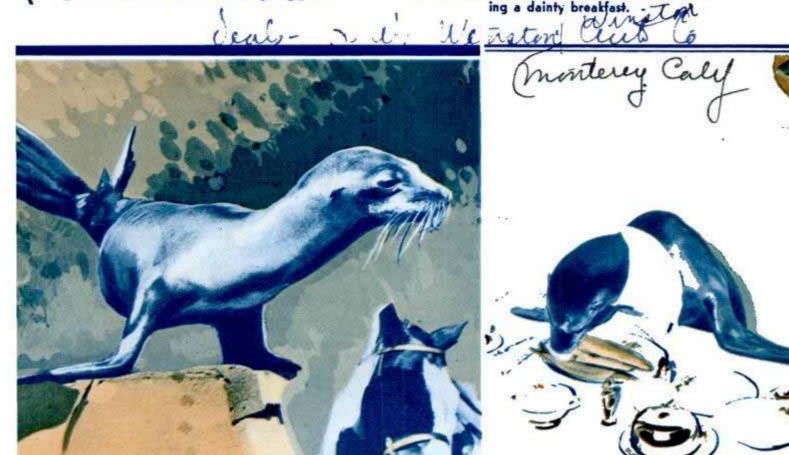
Young lions are like a bunch of children. Some are quiet and gentle while others never grow tame enough to be approached safely. Once an animal has been trained it may stay gentle all its life, or without any apparent reason it may suddenly revert to its wild disposition. From then on the trainer can never

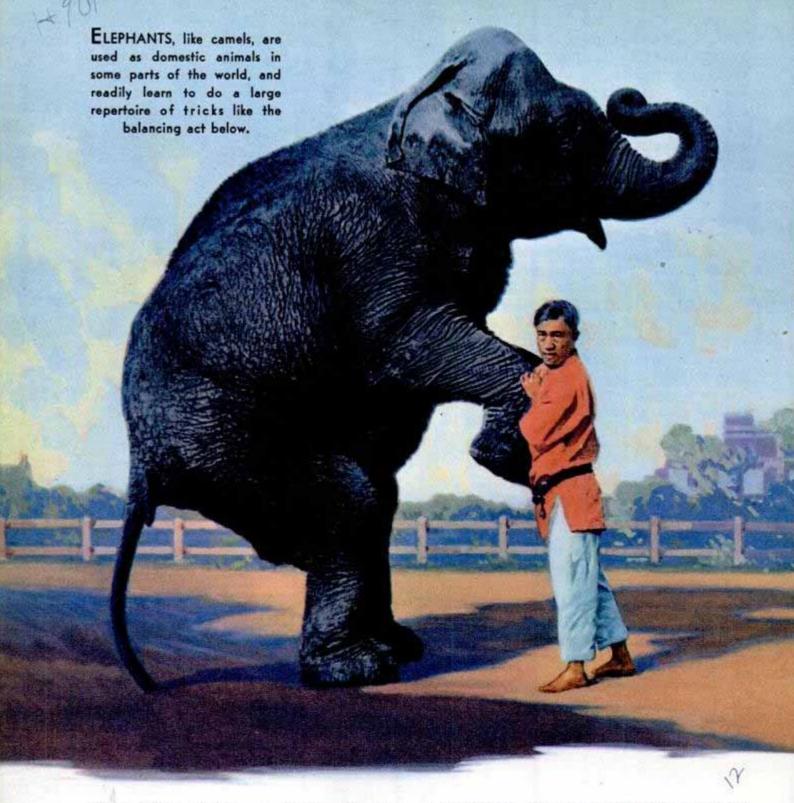
trust it.

Trainers remain constantly on their guard for the first danger signal during an act, no matter how peaceful the animals may appear.



GIANT black bear, above, engaged in a makebelieve wrestling match. The seal at the left, below, is riding a pony cart and balancing on its front flippers while clapping the back flippers in a demand for applause. The seal at the right is enjoy-

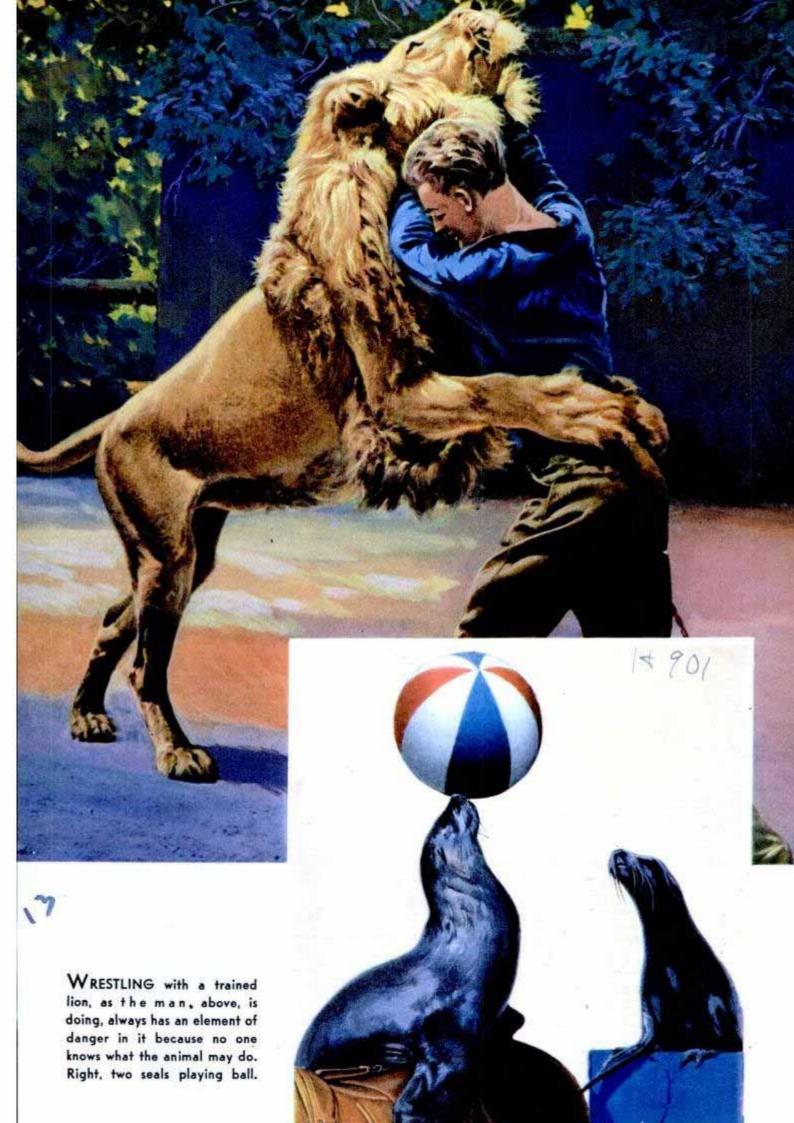




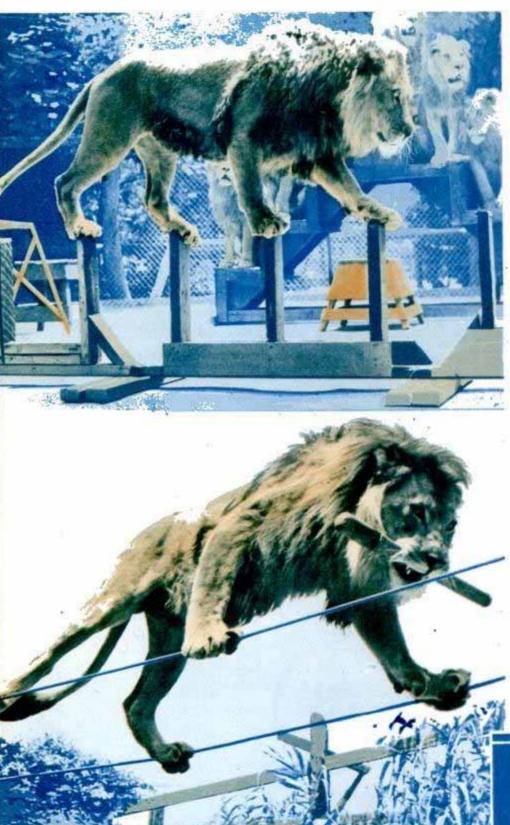
The pupils of the eyes frequently give the trainer his first inkling of approaching trouble. When a lion is calm and peaceful his pupils are small, but as he begins to grow alarmed or angry the pupils distend. When that happens an alert trainer sends the animals back to their cages. Otherwise the animal may spring on him or start a free-for-all fight.

There is always an element of danger in a lion act, even in the circus pyramid routine in which lions jump to their pedestals and roar and strike at the trainer's whip upon command. Lions that have grown up together work in groups the best, while animals that are total strangers to each other are difficult to work as a group. Sometimes a lion, like a person, becomes short tempered for a day or so. Then the trainer leaves him in his cage.

It would take months and in some cases it would be impossible to train lions to do some of the things you watch them do in motion pictures. The trainers achieve the same ends by various subterfuges. If a movie studio telephones in the morning, demanding a lion for that afternoon that will jump into a trunk or pursue someone upstairs, Gay has a lion on the set at the proper time although he has no lion trained to do either stunt. Yet on the stage the lion performs as if he had been



7 (01



When we release him he runs back up the stairs to his home. Finally, we take the small cage, with the lion inside, and hide it downstairs out of camera range. When the cameras are ready and the heroine is running wildly up the stairs we again release the lion. To the camera it appears the vicious beast is about to overtake the girl. As a matter of fact, the lion often beats the heroine up the stairs on his way to the Then we have to cage. shoot the scene all over.

"To make a lion appear to jump into a trunk and hide we do something similar. The 'trunk' is really nothing but a low partition painted to resemble a trunk, with the lion's cage hidden behind it. When we release the lion from a smaller cage he runs toward his home cage, bounding over the partition that

STILT walking, top, left, is a difficult stunt to teach any animal, but the lion does it. The rope-walking lion is rehearsing for a movie scene in which a doll will be substituted for the stick in its mouth. Below, applying make-up to seal

before a movie shot.

trained in the stunt for years. How Gay does it seems simple, once he explains it.

"If the script calls for a lion to pursue a woman up a flight of stairs," he says, "we take advantage of the fact that a lion, in strange surroundings, wants to stay inside his familiar cage. We start by placing the lion in a small cage at the top of the stairs, not far from the cage with which he is familiar. When we release him he dashes into the cage that represents home to him. Then we put him back in the small cage and carry him downstairs.



happens to be in the way. The way the camera sees it, the lion jumps into the trunk. It may take only half an hour to rehearse such a scene."

Seals seem to be among the most intelligent animals and some of them can be taught simple stunts in a few days. They readily learn to answer when their names are called and seem to have an intuitive knowledge of what they are being asked to do. They are sensitive to praise and scolding. Trainers have learned that the easiest way to teach them tricks is to reward each one with a small chunk of fish as soon as he does what is wanted. The catch is that from then on the seal expects to be rewarded frequently during a performance.

Simple balancing acts form the conventional repertoire of circus seals but they are capable of performing much more intricate stunts. In the motion picture,



"Spawn of the North," the director wanted a seal to act as the hero's pet. His chief demand was that the seal must appear natural instead of appearing to perform stunts. H. W. Winston, who supplied "Slicker" for the picture, trained the seal so well that it was given a major part in the production.

In the picture you see "Slicker" wrestle with the hero in the water, follow him on shore like a dog, and even turn on the water in a bathtub when he wants a swim. The seal cries, shakes his head to signify "yes" or "no," claps his flippers with joy, and in many other ways acts "human" on the screen.

above, to master. The camel, left, has been taught a few simple tricks for circus exhibitions.

At present Winston, famous for his trained seal acts, is perfecting an equestrian act in which two seals ride ponies, a third rides a pony cart, and a fourth acts as ringmaster and supplies the mounted seals with balls and double batons that they juggle while riding. Picking up a large rubber ball, the ringmaster seal balances it on his nose, then tosses it to one of the mounted seals, who



catches it on his nose on the fly, ball ances it, then passes it to the next seal. Finally, when each seal has caught the ball and juggled it, the ball is returned to the ringmaster.

The finale of the act is a routine with a fire baton, a stick with a flaming gasoline torch at each end that is tossed to the ringmaster seal. The seal flips the baton into the air, spinning it and catching it in his mouth, then he tosses it to one of the mounted seals who carries on the performance from there. Some of the seals have learned to roll over on the ground while balancing balls on upturned noses. All clap their flippers when they want applause. Winston has also taught them to balance on their front flippers and to raise their bodies into the air while clapping their back flippers.

"All seals used in stunts are captured while young," Winston says.
"They have remarkably different personalities and some learn to do tricks easily while others can hardly learn to do more than simple balancing (Continued to page 128-A)

EQUESTRIAN seal act, top, with two seals riding ponies, a third the pony cart and a fourth acting as ringmaster. Bottom, trainer thrusting his arm inside the mouth of a lion which has been taught to remain gentle during performances instead of roaring and putting on a scene for the spectators as most "cats" are trained to do.

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# Miniature Circus Gives Many 'Big Top' Thrills



Plow restraction MOVING

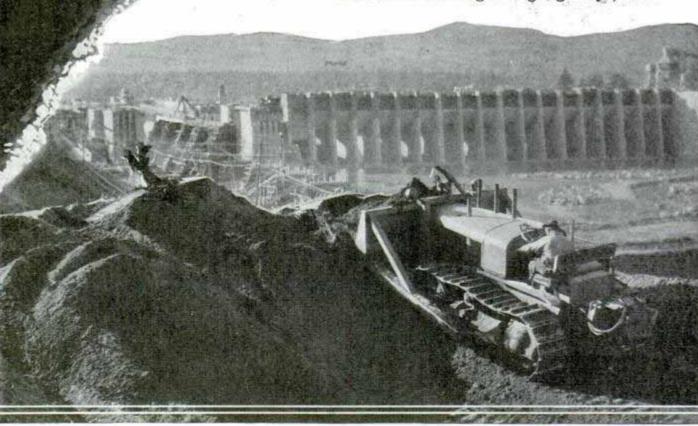
THE small boy with his pail and

THE small boy with his pail and shovel and the tractor-bull-dozer combination have something in common—they both move earth. But where the boy works by handfuls, the 'dozer works in big yardages. And does this at a speed that often rivals a landslide.

Road making, road-alinement work, canal construction, dam construction, paving and road surfacing, mining, terracing, channel

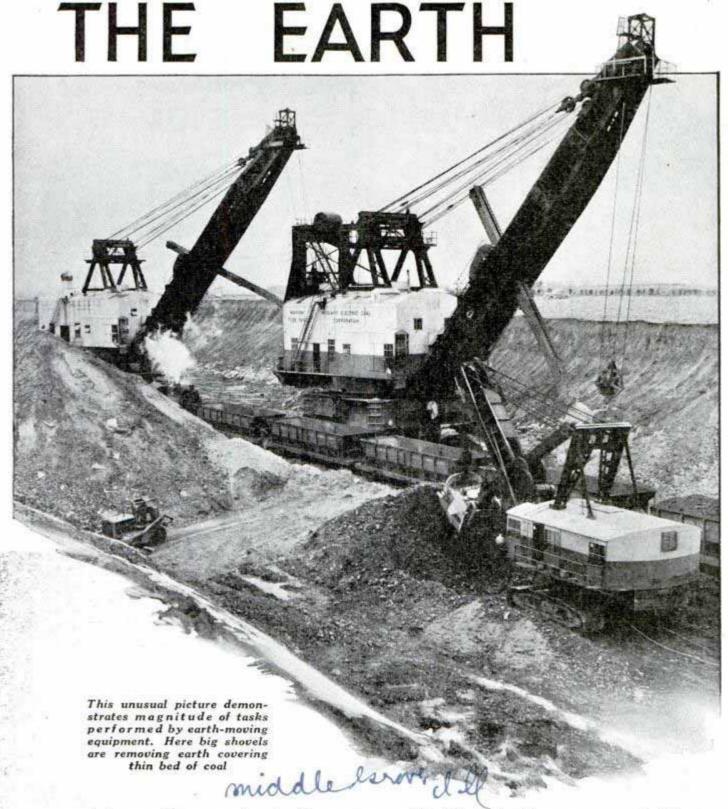
deepening and tunneling are some of the projects on which the total amount of earth moved is beyond conception of the human mind.

The development of labor-saving equipment for gigantic earth movements, such as that at Grand Coulee dam, has been as remarkable as the tasks themselves. Because methods of a decade ago did not move earth fast enough, a contractor designed and built a scraper and other allied tools while working on big highways, rail-



Top, tractor pulling special plow is used in reclaiming flooded land by plowing four feet deep to turn under sand and silt and bring up fertile soil. Bottom, modern construction always calls for vast movements of earth

cent. B. m. dheet, 53 de Jackson, Colu

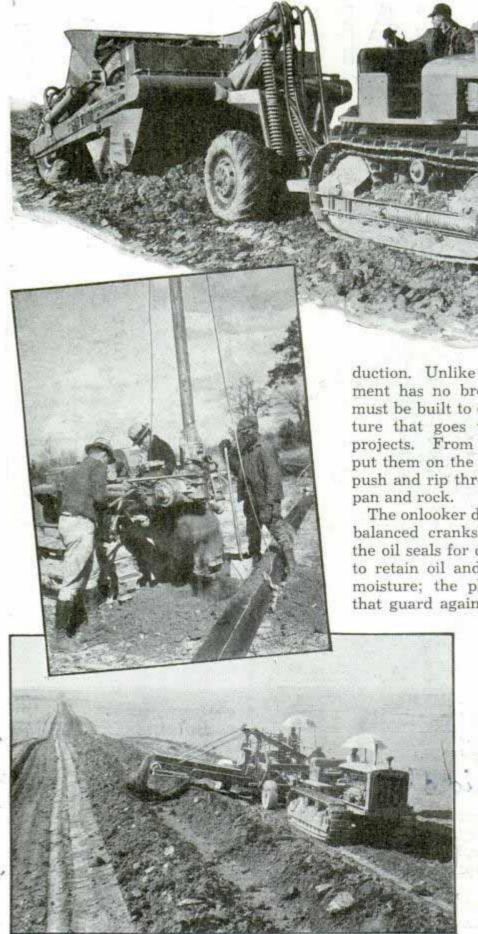


road, dam and levee contracts. Then came the present fast-operating, big-capacity "carryall" type of scrapers, bulldozers, angle dozers, sheep-foot tampers, rippers and similar apparatus.

But these tools must be pulled, pushed or otherwise operated. The track-laying type of tractor usually does the pulling or pushing on tough jobs.

The precipitous Jack-Rabbit Trail in Riverside County, Calif., was done entirely with Diesel tractors, scrapers, bulldozers, rippers and tampers. In five months this equipment moved 650,000 cubic yards of earth. The total was something like 1,200,-000 cubic yards. Only a few years ago cuts like this would have necessitated power shovels and much hauling equipment. The same fleet used on Jack-Rabbit Trail then moved on to work on a huge dam.

Precision is the chief characteristic of tractor and earth-moving machinery pro-



Top, one man does work of many with this tractor-scraper combination. Center, earth-borer digs hole and sets in pole. Bottom, elevating grader building mile in fifteen hours moves 6,000 yards of earth per mile

duction. Unlike automobiles this equipment has no break-in period. Tractors must be built to endure the relentless torture that goes with vast earth-removal projects. From the moment contractors put them on the job, tractors must pull or push and rip through gumbo, trees, hard-pan and rock.

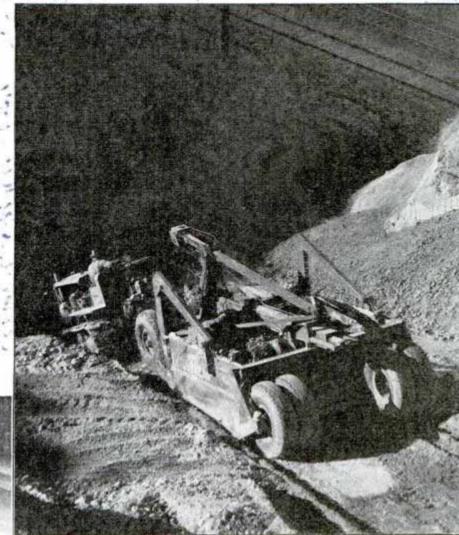
The onlooker does not see the accurately balanced crankshaft of the huge Diesel; the oil seals for critical bearing protection to retain oil and keep out grit, dust and moisture; the phosphor-bronze bushings that guard against wear, nor the fuel in-

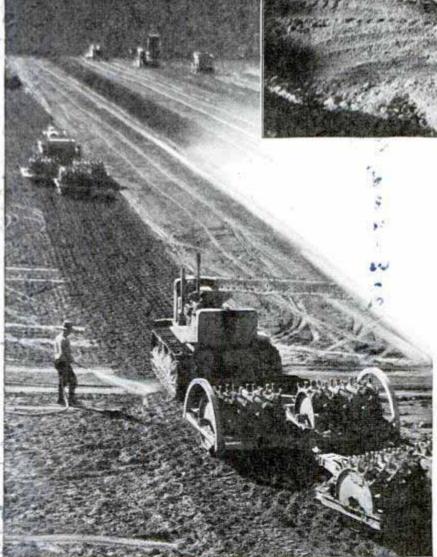
> jector parts held to an accuracy of two and onehalf millionth of an inch.

Operators get a big pay load because the design of the bowl, set of the cutting edge and the front carrying apron speed the filling of the bowl through a minimum movement of dead dirt. The entire weight of the scraper can be thrown onto the cutting edge. Both the front apron and tail gate can be manipulated to facilitate the loading process.

The speed of the power control unit enables the operator to instantaneously raise the cutting blade when stumps or rocks are hit; thus the tractor need never be allowed to lug down to the point of inefficiency.

The front carrying apron forms a part of the scraper bottom; in other words the bowl fills from the middle both ways, to the back and onto the apron. The carryalls are mounted on big pneumatic tires and heavyduty over-size roller bearings, consequently of great strength and resiliency, arc welded, reduce weight to a minimum, yet make for stout construction. As a result, the tractor pulling a carryall





Top, more than 500,000 cubic yards of dirt were removed on cutoff near Los Angeles. Bottom, closeup of sheep-foot tamper, which is used in compacting loose earth

scraper wastes no power hauling the dead weight of heavy castings and bulky steels and so can handle bigger pay loads.

A long wheel base, coupled with instantaneous cable control, makes for fractional-inch accuracy in spreading with these carryalls—so accurate that blade graders usually can be dispensed with on finishing work.

The forepart of the load dumps automatically as the front apron is raised, the remainder of the load is forced forward and out by the sliding tailgate—there is no chance for sticky material to remain in the bowl.

And loading, hauling or spreading, the carryall is one-man operated—all operations in sight and controlled from the tractor seat.

When a road is to be made on a side hill that is too steep for a

(Continued to page 144A)

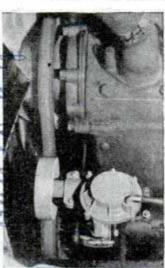
# Seven-Foot Telescope Mirror Is Finished in Chromium Bath



Here is the big mirror for the telescope after its bath in chromium and aluminum. The glass is twelve inches thick

Almost exactly four years elapsed in the grinding and polishing of the eighty-two inch telescope mirror recently completed for the new McDonald Observatory in Texas. The last stage was the application of a chromium and aluminum bath in a vacuum chamber. The three-ton reflector is made of Pyrexiglass twelve inches thick.

# Fan-Belt Vacuum Pump Drives > Car's Windshield Wiper

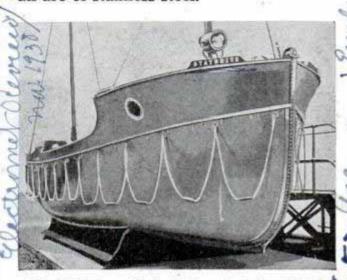


Strong, constanted vacuum for operating the windshield wiper is supplied by a small pump running in contact with the outside of the fan belt. The vacuum line from the pump, which is in constant operation, runs to the wiper through a combination tee

connection and check valve. Also running to the tee connection and check valve is a vacuum line from the auto's intake manifold. The check valve automatically opens a line directly to the source of vacuum that is the greatest. When the motor is idling, this would be the intake manifold and when the motor is under load. it would be the vacuum pump. The combination of the two sources of vacuum assures a dependable and constant supply of vacuum, which means that the windshield wiper will operate at an even speed regardless of the load. The pump is easily installed without drilling by means of brackets. The inside of the pump requires no oiling, and the bearing is lubricated with a standard grease gun.

# Resists Corrosion at Sea

Observatory in Stainless steel from hull to rudder, a lifeboat which has just passed official tests is not only leakproof but virtually inderector elve inches thick. Ordinary lifeboats may deterior orate even while resting on the deck, but this twenty-eight-foot craft cannot corrode. The hull plates are welded to the stiffening ribs for strength. The hull plating, only eight-hundredths inch thick, and the rudder, propeller shaft and propeller all are of stainless steel.



This lifeboat, made of stainless steel, is said to be virtually indestructible

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# Motors "Measured" to Find Hidden Troubles





Transcentinental and Western Air unecipal auxori, Korasus JEXT summer you will be able to board a pressurized-cabin air liner and fly across the United States higher than ever

You will fly faster than you do today although the plane will seem to stand still, so high will it be above the ground. If the weather is clear you will be able to see 100 miles in every direction, with more than 40,000 square miles of scenery laid out beneath the windows of the plane. If storms are raging near the surface you will still be in brilliant sunshine.

The inside of the cabin will be warm and

Above, the author equipped with oxygen line for flying in substratosphere. Below, cockpit of "upper level" pas-

comfortable although the air just outside your window may be thirty or forty degrees below zero. At 20,000 feet the air is so thin that a cigarette goes out from lack of oxygen and you fall into a doze after a few breaths, but the altitude inside the

By Captain D. W. Tomlinson Cheabin normally will be only 8,000 feet and never more than 12,000 feet.

> You will be flying in one of the new Boeing pressurized-cabin transports being built for TWA. These huge fourengined planes, which will carry thirtythree passengers, are being built especially for "over-weather" operation. Fresh air, drawn in through the leading edge of the wing, is compressed and heated to provide a comfortable atmosphere even though the plane may be flying four miles high.

> Faster speeds and better weather are the reasons for flying high. The air is so thin that the plane moves through it with less drag, picking up speed at the rate of a oneper-cent increase for every 1,000 feet of

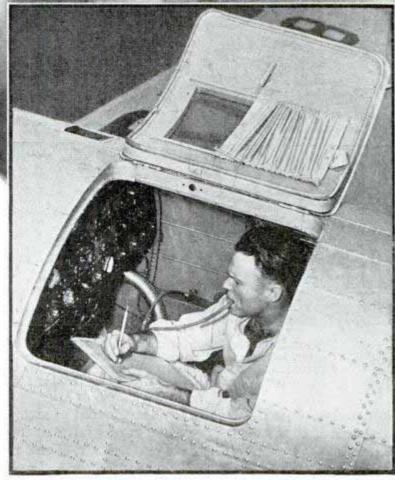
ABOVE the WEATHER



How substratosphere transport will appear. Note its streamline shape

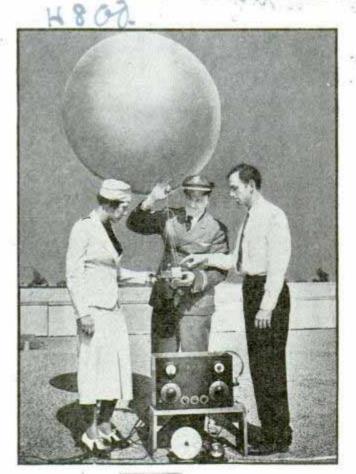
altitude. The viscosity of the atmosphere decreases with the temperature, reducing friction between the plane and the air.

Since 1934 we have been studying conditions in the troposphere. Many of the bugaboos that seemed to make passenger-carrying at 20,000 feet a risky business were much easier to overcome than we expected. In the upper air man resembles a fish out of water and he has to carry his own atmosphere with him. The most satisfactory way of doing this is to seal the cabin and increase the pressure inside of it, converting the plane into something like a flying



Observer holding oxygen tube in his mouth as he records readings in laboratory plane

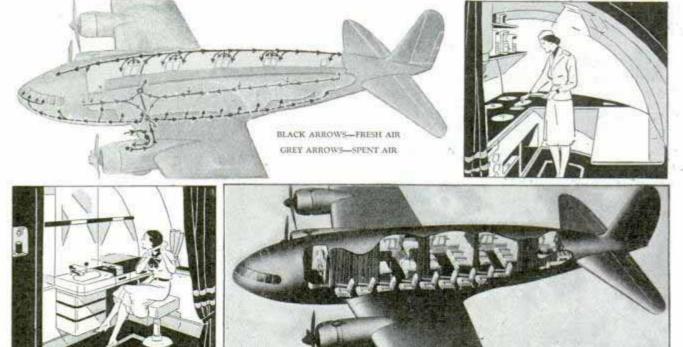
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with, we decided that since passengers are flying in comfort at 8,000 feet, there is no need to maintain sea-level pressure inside the cabin. An inside pressure equivalent to 12,000 feet is even satisfactory. The planes are being built to withstand an internal pressure of six pounds per square inch, twice as strong as they need to be. As a final check, men have been placed in sealed chambers, the pressure built up to comparable amounts and then suddenly released by smashing a window with a brick. There were no bad effects.

During the last few years I have lived for many hours in the substratosphere as part of a \$100,000 research program conducted preliminary to passenger-carrying. Primarily we were concerned with safety. Also we sought the best means of supercharging the engines and cabin.

Heating the cabin air will be accomplished quite satisfactorily by our present steam-heating system in spite of the low outside temperatures. This is because the



Top, radiometeorograph attached to balloon to take weather readings in high altitudes. Center, left, sketch showing air-circulation system in "upper level" ship. Right, modern kitchenette will be feature of the high-flying transport. Bottom, left, "high-altitude" dressing room. Right, cutaway drawing gives glimpse into sealed cabin.

submarine. One hazard that this suggested was that if the internal pressure ruptured a window the passengers and crew might expire in the upper air. This myth has been exploded as far as the altitudes we are contemplating are concerned. To begin incoming air acquires some heat during compression in the superchargers. The ratio of oxygen and other gases remains constant in the atmosphere, hence there will be no need to supply the passengers with special respirators or introduce pure

oxygen into the cabin. One part of the experimental program was to investigate conditions when storms were reaching up into the stratosphere. We found that at 20,000 feet we could fly over ninety-five per cent of all storm conditions. Even in the very infrequent cloud masses that poke up that high there are no true storm conditions such as are found at the bases of the same clouds. There is practically no turbulence or rough air even in the clouds, and the clouds are so thin and dry that they resemble wisps of smoke rather than fog. There is not enough moisture present to build up dangerous ice formations although thin coatings of

hoar frost may form on the plane structure occasionally.

Winds at such altitudes are variable. That means, as today, that pilots will still shop around for favorable winds for their trips before they take off and will fly at altitudes that give them boosting tail winds. They will not always climb to 20,000 feet just because they are able to. Sometimes they will be able to take advantage of winds that will boost their speed 100 miles per hour or more. In still air at 20,000 feet the high-altitude passenger transports will cruise at 240 miles per hour on sixty per cent of power.

High-altitude operation, flying at 20,000 feet or higher, is feasible only for distances of 750 miles or more. Likewise, high-altitude hops on the commercial airways will be limited for sometime to distances not greater than 1,000 to 1,500 miles. Longer flights, considering the fuel weights necessary and the power diverted to supercharging, would mean too small a pay load.

Taking off in a pressure-cabin transport, the pilot will head toward his destination as soon as he leaves the ground and will climb steadily at the rate of 500 feet per

(Continued to page 142A)

# "Cop" on Beat Is Motorized to Save Both Time and Feet



Three policemen demonstrate how they cover their beats faster by using motor scooters. The transportation is quite economical

 Suburbanites in Inglewood, Calif., no longer need feel sorry for the policeman walking his long, long beat through the neighborhood. The patrolmen have been motorized. They ride a fleet of small motor scooters which cover the ground faster and cover the beat oftener, traveling thirty miles an hour and 130 miles on a gallon of gas. Further, the scooters enable the police to respond quickly to emergency calls.

#### Suction Grip for Auto Headlight Saves Lens from Breakage

To prevent breakage of the lens when removing it from an automobile headlight, a vacuum grip has been developed. It is a bell-shaped tool with lever grip, employing the



mechanical vacuum principle instead of natural suction and thus providing a firm and certain grip.

# Balloon-Inflating Cart Is Aid to Vendor



Handy machine for the vendor blows up balloons for customers while they wait

Even the balloon vendor is keeping abreast of the times in an age of machines and streamlining. No longer do the youngsters have to huff and puff to inflate the rubber bags. The balloon man now pushes a shiny, streamline cart with a machine that blows them full of helium gas.

#### Push-Button Faucet for Bottle Seals Liquid Food Airtight



Made to fit any bottle having a standard thirty-eight-millimeter screw top, a bottle-cap faucet keeps the contents airtight and provides a convenient method of pouring.

Press your thumb on the faucet button and the flow is instantaneous and easily controlled from individual drops to a full stream. A battery of bottles equipped with these faucet caps can be left in the refrigerator, ready to dispense the liquid contents without moving a bottle.

#### Retriever Bullet Fired into Well Samples Rock for Oil Test

Bullets anchored to the gun like the rope to the harpoon are used by oil men to sample rock formations surrounding an oil well. These "retriever" bullets are fired into the side walls of the well by a special gun. Hollow, they bore into the rock and capture a sample, and are withdrawn.

#### "Chute" in Icebox Keeps Milk Bottles Within Reach

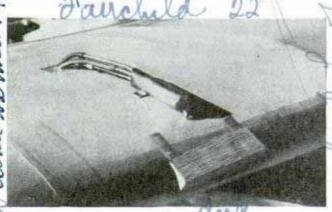
Milk bottles are always kept within easy reach at the front of the refrigerator when loaded in an inclined rack that is now available. It is intended for use in display refrig-



erators at the grocery or dairy. When a bot-

#### Meter Foresees Stall of Plane and Warns the Pilot.

Anticipating danger before it becomes critical, a meter just developed at Langley Field, Va., warns the pilot when his plane is about to stall. Blamed for a large percentage of airplane accidents, a stall occurs when the plane's speed is so low or it is climbing so steeply that the flow of air



Small warning tube on edge of wing detects approach of stall and signals pilot

POPULAR MECHANICS Chausting Les

over the wings is interrupted. To detect a stall before it happens, a sharp edge is built into the leading edge of the wing and just before the main wing reaches a stalling angle, a local stall over the small, sharp edge is produced. A meter detects this local stall by a drop in pressure, and sets off a warning indicator in the cockpit.

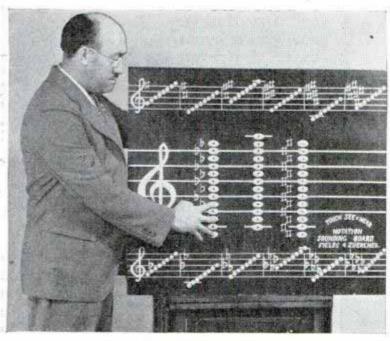
#### 4 12 36 Electric Music Board Is Aid in Teaching

Operated by an electric motor, a board designed to facilitate the teaching of music permits the pupil to see, touch and hear the notes being studied. The device is a blackboard containing three music staffs. The center staff contains the master scale ranging from B-flat to A above the staff. On either side are sharps and flats of various tones. Top and bottom staffs show scales from one to six flats and from one to six sharps. The pupil hears the tone played from a soundbox located back of the board. The electric motor blows air through accordion reeds to produce the tones. The board, thirty by thirty-five inches, is portable. Its use is said to speed up instruction in music.

#### 'Candid' X-Ray Picture Snapped in One-Hundredth of a Second



Taking X-ray picture of the chest with aid of "trigger tube which is powered by ordinary lighting current



Showing position of hands on keyboard is one of the advantages of electric chart designed to teach music

an ordinary 110-volt light socket, a small glass "trigger tube" just developed by Westinghouse makes possible a candid X-ray snapshot of the human chest taken in less than one-hundredth second exposure, free from distortions sometimes caused by heart movement. The tube controls the flow of 110-volt power to condensers, and when a button is pressed after eight seconds the stored power isreleased as an 89,000-volt maximum discharge through the X-ray tube. This vacuum "trigger tube" incloses electric coils letting power flow from socket to condensers until the coils become heated, then the condensers discharge.

Storing up power drawn from

## Seaplane Ramp Submerges to Lift Craft from Water

Tar Some



Seaplane on turntable after being lifted from water by the ramp. The plane can be taken from the water in thirty seconds 1205

Designed to lift seaplanes from the water, a portable ramp has been demonstrated. It submerges and the seaplane is maneuvered over it. Then the ramp rises, picking the ship from the water in thirty seconds. It has a turntable on which aircraft may be turned in any direction desired.

#### Front-Wheel-Drive Motorcycle Carries Engine over Fork

Engine and front fork of a front-wheeldrive motorcycle are built as one unit and the frame and rear wheel form another unit. The two sections can be dismantled in a minute for quick, convenient packing.



This motorcycle, with engine over front wheel, can be taken apart quickly

The two-cycle, singlecylinder engine is mounted over the front wheel where the air is clean and its cooling power is unobstructed. The wheel is chain-driven through a two-speed transmission, both throttle and transmission being controlled by handle grips. Rigid brake drums on the rear wheel are operated by a foot pedal. Light and fast, the motorcycle weighs 150 pounds, can carry two men, and travels ten to sixty miles an hour at 100 to 125 miles per gallon. The wheelbase is fortyeight inches.

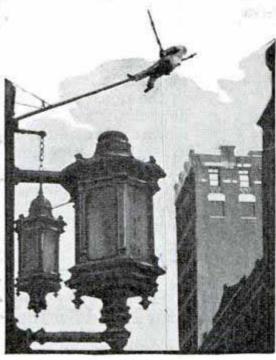
# Adjustable Drawbar for Trailer Switches from Car to Car Attachable to

any automobile without drilling, cutting, welding or otherwise marring the car, a drawbar for trailers can be adjusted to raise or lower the trailer to level position. Easily detached and installed on another car by an unskilled person in less than a half hour, it is of special value to motorists using a trailer for only short periods and to agencies renting out trailers for vacation use.



● Our Bureau of Information keeps on file the names and addresses of makers of, and dealers in, all devices described in the pages of Popular Mechanics Magazine. We are glad to furnish this information to our readers upon request, accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelope.

# Risking Lives High in Air Is All in Day's Work

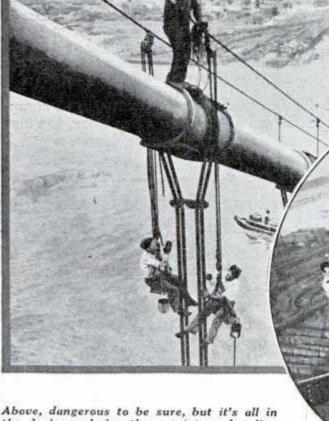


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Risking his life high above ground is just a part of the job to this steeplejack over-hauling the flagpole at entrance to a New York building



Here another daring worker appears unworried by the fact that he is oiling a skip carrier on a cableway 150 feet above the site of a large dam



Above, dangerous to be sure, but it's all in the day's work for these painters dangling 350 feet above the water on Delaware River bridge cable. Right, another steeplejack gambles with death on a forty-two story building as he swings from one point to another

Willough

all in ingling River gamilding her

beplejach Jerry

## Family of Nine Rides 'Bike' with Rumble Seat for Four



Count 'em! The five in front do the work; the four behind just ride

crowded when a family of nine climbs blades costing, it is estimated, about one-aboard—yet here is a bicycle carrying dad, tenth the cost of making a scraper by hand. mother and seven children! Rather, it is a The blades stand hard usage, one blade double bicycle, with front seats for the pilot and his wife, saddles for three behind them, and a "rumble seat" at the rear accommodating four more. This unusual vehicle, owned by a family in Switzerland, is propelled on a "share-the-work" plan.

# by Automobile Exhaust

Farmers and orchard men can fight insects effectively with an inexpensive pow-



er spray that is operated by the exhaust of an automobile. Developed by W. T. Emery, a government scientist in Kansas, it utilizes gravity feed for the insecticide fluid as far as the nozzle, where it flows through slots and is blown out in a mist by the exhaust gas. The inventor dedicated his patent to the free use of the people, making it available to anyone wishing to manufacture the device.

#### Replaceable Blades for Hand Scraper

Factory-made hand scrapers with replaceable

Anything less than a bus might seem blades are available for shop work, the



Hand scraper and kit of blades which reduce cost, outlasting ordinary type of scraper

Low-Cost Insect Sprayer Run being equal to an ordinary hand scraper reforged five times. When worn, the blade is replaced and you have a new scraper. It need not be reground, simply stoned.

#### Contour "Map" of Ocean Floor Made by Depth Finder Jtane

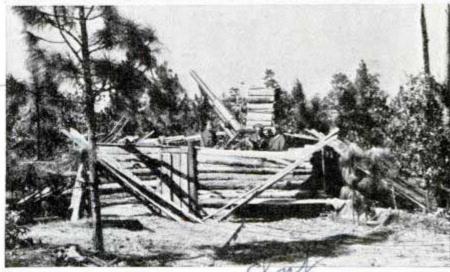
Standing on the bridge of the new liner "Mauretania," the navigating officer can watch an indicator giving an instant and continuous measurement of the depth of the sea under his keel. Taking soundings' formerly was the work of ten minutes or more. The radio echometer, using a highfrequency beam reflected from the ocean floor, records the depth of water many times per minute by a "peak" of light on a calibrated scale. Thus it plots a graph of the contours of the sea bed and helps the navigator verify his position by comparison with charts of known contours.

## Log Cabin in Woods Hides Anti-Aircraft Gun

To observers in enemy planes riding far overhead, this ramshackle log hut in the midst of a forest of scrub pines seemed harmless enough if, indeed, it could be spotted at all by airmen flying thousands of feet above. But when air raiders appeared within range, the trap was sprung—the roof timbers were quickly cleared and the hidden anti-aircraft gun elevated into firing position, ready to blast the invaders out of the sky. This was one of the defense tricks in the recent maneuvers at Fort Bragg, N. C., where army officers demonstrated what they termed the world's finest anti-aircraft equipment.

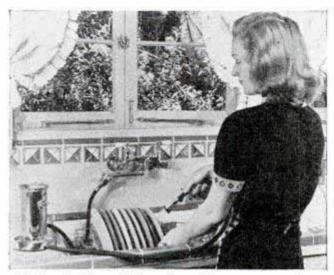
> At top you see an old log shack in scrub pines of North Carolina. Below, it is suddenly revealed as hiding place of anti-aircraft gun





#### Motorless Dishwasher Uses Water Pressure and Soap

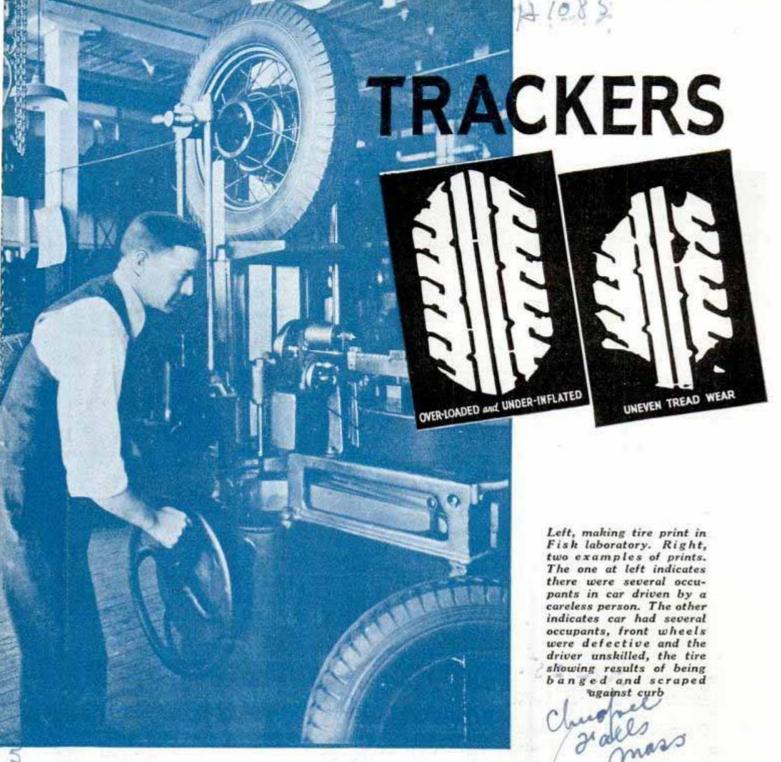
Operating without motor or moving parts, a simple home dishwasher now on the market uses water pressure and com-



Using the home dishwasher. Note soap container (at left) with hose connection to faucet

mon soap. It consists of a small chromiumplated soap chamber three inches in diameter and eight inches high, with hose running to a faucet adapter and to a needle spray head. The adapter, made of rubber, fits any size faucet. It is held securely to the tap by a small chain. By flicking a lever on the side of the soap chamber, the user diverts the water through the chamber to obtain a strong spray of hot suds. Turning the lever back seals off the soap and enables the user to get clear hot water for rinsing. The amount of soap used is controlled by the valve. Dishes are placed in a rack fitted with a sliding panel which may be adjusted to accommodate the number of dishes to be washed, up to the capacity of the rack. A second rack holds the silver. The entire apparatus may be stored in a cuphoard when not in use.

Droyfoan Lishwasher



JUST as the cunning Indian scouts of an earlier day could "read the signs" of the man whose trail they were following, modern trackers of the highway with scientific precision can tell much about the man who drives an automobile, even if the car has been swallowed up by the 900,000 miles of roads that crisscross the country.

No longer is the automobile the lawbreaker's perfect means of escape. Many times it leaves telltale "fingerprints" which are as individual and revealing to a tire expert as a set of teeth is to a dentist.

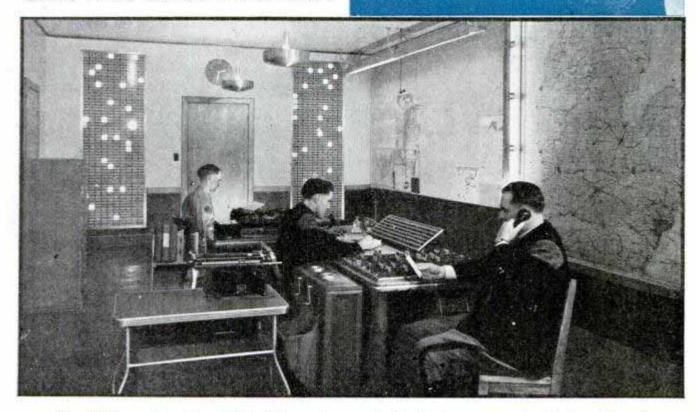
Lawbreakers are being tracked down all over the country with the aid of 2,799 tiretread prints filed in the Bureau of Federal Investigation in Washington. Once a tire print is obtained at the scene of a crime, the chances are 100 to one that the tire can be identified because the collection of patterns on file covers not only all models made in the United States and Canada but also the products of tire rebuilders.

Tire-sleuthing, though an infant branch of criminology, is an important scientific one. A pioneer in its development is A. E. Benson, product development manager of the Fisk Tire company and one of the world's foremost tire engineers.

"As a growing child develops its own personality," says Mr. Benson, "a new tire as it gains in mileage reflects the peculiarities of the car and owner through irregular wear. Presence and arrangements of of the HIGHWAY OVER-INFLATED and UNEVEN TREAD OVER-INFLATED these peculiarities give the tire its per-

sonality.

"Five years ago, tire purchases were based primarily on size and quality, but the development of the automobile for specific purposes has brought about specialty tires designed to meet particular service conditions. Today the tire industry offers such major types as the startstop for delivery trucks that stop frequently in city service; mud and snow;



Top, left, two prints of over-inflated tires, the one at left indicating preparations for long, fast trip. Right and bottom, broadcasts of tire prints help police track down criminals



edging on design units and along the ribs."

Tire prints also tell the experts many things about the driver. They can tell the approximate number of occupants by the depths of a print. From its width (under or over inflation) they can tell whether the driver is cautious or overconfident and by scuffing at the sides, where he may have hit the curb when parking, whether or not he is

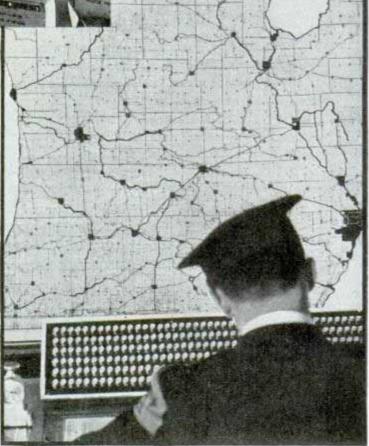
farm tractor; safety and bus, passenger car and truck tires of various sizes.

"First inspection of the print immediately reveals whether a truck, bus or passenger tire was used. If it was a passenger tire, it is a simple matter of deduction, combined with a knowledge of tire sizes, to judge whether the car was in the Chevrolet, Buick or Cadillac class. At times it is possible to determine precisely which one and its age, because a Chevrolet, for example, may carry a certain manufacturer's tire for a particular year.

"If the car was in an accident, the probabilities are that the wheels were knocked out of alinement. Before the car has been driven many miles in this condition, excessive wear will begin to show in the tire tread.

"Front wheels only half an inch out of alinement will drag tires eighty-seven feet in every mile. Such wear is immediately evident to the expert's eye, as revealed in the print. When brake drums are out of round, another condition will soon become apparent. Gripping always in the same spot, the tread will be worn in egg-shaped spots while the remaining tread will show only normal wear.

"Caster, camber, toe-in and toe-out action in the front wheels all leave their identifying marks. Too much camber results in gouged-out front tires. Excessive toe-in or toe-out action leaves feather-



Top, checking motor license plates. Bottom, radio dispatcher at control desk with road map in front of him is ready to help trap escaping car

careless. A tire leaves a "positive" design when it passes over a wet road or ground, marking its wet track over a dry portion similar to a printing process. If the same tire stamps its track in mud or other soft substance the tracks become a mold or a "negative" impression. In the Fisk laboratories, experts have developed their own

method of making impressions by machinery. Federal experts, when assigned to a case, will photograph a positive impression and make a cast of a negative impression, using paraffin, white wax or plaster of paris in the mold to preserve every detail.

With almost 1,100 hit-andrun tragedies annually leaving few if any clues to the killers' identities, the tire print has become an important aid in the solution of crimes of this type. Such tire prints have been found at the side of the road where the









Top, "lie detector" frequently is used to check clues in hit-run cases. Bottom, left, examining tire track.

Center, pouring in plaster of paris. Right, tire print recorded in mold

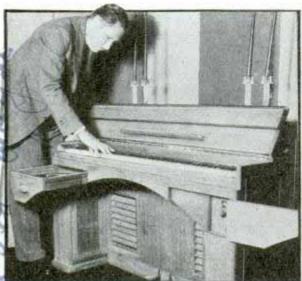
motorist swerved in a vain attempt to avoid his victim, in dirt positives on concrete roadways after similar swerving and in rubber "scorched" on the asphalt as the driver futilely applied his brakes; and printed in the victim's own blood.

Recently a Connecticut policeman, graduate of the National Police Academy of the Bureau of Investigation, tracked down a hit-and-run driver who had killed a boy. The policeman made a mold of the track left by the death car. He found a car with a tire that matched the cast. A comparison of glass found near the tire track aided the identification. Confronted with that evidence, the driver confessed. "Apprehending hit-and-run drivers requires all the facilities of a modern police department," says Commissioner Oscar G. Olander of the Michigan state police. "Every possible contact between police officers and garage men, managers of parking lots and the general public must be made to secure information as to the whereabouts of the violator's car."

With more and more police authorities throughout the country adding "tire-sleuthing" to their scientific equipment, officers are now able to piece together more information than formerly in sending out general alarms—and with prompt-

(Continued to page 136A)

## Piano Without a Soundboard Is Four Instruments in One





© Andrew Halbran

12/2.

Two views of combination musical instrument. Left, phonograph and radio compartments open. Right, operating the radio

Phonograph, radio, electronic piano and conventional piano have been combined into a single instrument. With a full eighty-eight note keyboard, it is, first of all, a conventional piano with the usual hammers and strings, but minus the soundboard. When played in this manner it possesses an exquisite tone but, because of the absence of a soundboard, the vibrations do not carry far enough to disturb neighbors. At the turn of a switch the piano is converted into an electronic piano, the vibrations of each string being picked up electrically, amplified and reproduced through the loudspeaker in its base, thereby producing tones of a different character. Sliding out a compartment on the left converts it into an electrical phonograph and opening a door on the right makes it a long and short wave radio. The instrument is three feet high, two feet one inch deep, and four feet six and one-half inches wide.

# Glass Fibers Used to Insulate Electrical Equipment

Glass insulation for electrical equipment, including wire and motors, is being used in steadily increasing quantities. The insulation comes in the form of yarn, woven tape, braided sleeving and cloth, and is applied by manufacturers. Fiber-

glas, made by the Owens-Illinois Glass company, is one of the insulating materials on the market. It has superior electrical properties, is resistant to high temperatures and will not burn, does not absorb moisture and is undamaged by occasional overloads. In addition, it permits reduction in size of equipment, such as a motor, with resultant savings in materials. Fiberglas is composed of extremely fine fibers, 0002 inch in diameter. made from the remelting of glass marbles. One marble three-fourths inch in diameter makes approximately ninety-eight

miles of fiber. Deltaglass is the name of glass fiber insulation used for magnet wire manufactured by the General Electric company. The wire is recommended for apparatus windings where the temperature does not exceed 125 degrees centigrade. The insulation is flexible, has high dielectric strength and resists abrasion, due to a coating of special varnish.

Midget Car Built from Junk Has Eighty-Mile Speed

Made from junk automobile parts, a midget car constructed recently has a speed of eighty miles per hour. It is equipped with small tires of a standard make. Acetylene and arc-welding equipment were the principal tools used in the work.



Midget automobile constructed from junk parts

wheelbase 44 "X 8 2

Willed

### Fireboat Hangs 20,000-Gallon Screen of Water



trial tests. It can pump 20,000 gallons per minute

Its hoses raised in fanlike formation, New York's new fireboat hung a thick curtain of water over the Hudson river in its trial demonstrations recently. Its Dieselelectric engines can pump 20,000 gallons a minute at a nozzle pressure of 150 pounds per square inch, and propel the boat at better than sixteen knots.

#### Rubber Heel Snaps on the Shoe without a Trip to Cobbler

Rubber heels that can be clipped on the shoe by the wearer himself are being introduced in England. Metal plates are screwed to the shoes, and the heels are easily snapped on by means of simple locking clips molded into the rubber.

#### Automatic Fuel System Saves Airplane from Gas Failure

Promising added safety by eliminating the danger of running out of gas while landing, taking off or flying low, an automatic fuel system for airplanes automatically switches from an empty tank to a full one. The device relies on falling fuel pressure in the emptying tank to turn the fuel cock to the next tank. Should it be empty, the fuel cock would continue turning until it did come to a tank containing fuel enough to boost the pressure above the level at which the device operates.

# NEW JOBS on the



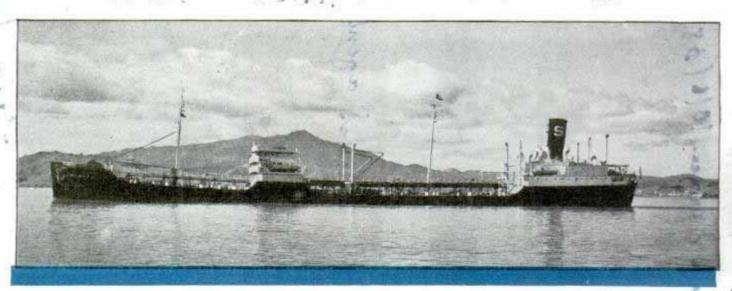
IF YOU want to go to sea, Uncle Sam will do all he can to help you rise to command. Nearly all the officers of America's merchant marine worked their way from the fo'c'sle up to the bridge and today the Maritime Commission is starting a serious effort to help young men make a success of their seagoing careers.

In the next ten years 500 ships ranging

from freighters to giant passenger liners are going to be built under the American flag. Though some will take the place of vessels wearing out, an army of about 10,000 new sailors, including steam and Diesel engineers, captains, navigators and radio men, will be needed to man the new fleet.

Technical skill has already replaced brawn at sea and a new breed of sailormen is in demand. The derisive jeer of old tars, "wooden men and iron ships," is as out of date now as the iron men and wooden ships that the first vessels propelled by steam replaced.

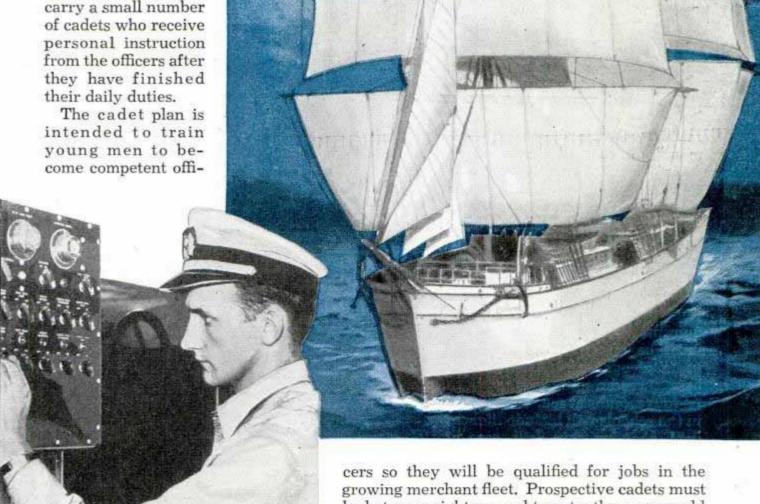
Specifically, the commission is opening seamanship schools at which men who have already shipped to sea can be trained to increase their rank and pay. The commission is also overhauling the cadet system by which young men receive instruction at sea. In the past cadets sometimes regarded their ocean trips simply as vacations but now an applicant for such a post must apply to the



Plotting exact location of ship at start of voyage, top, by taking bearings on objects ashore. Bottom, the "W. H. Berg," one of new oil tankers of Standard Oil Company of California

# HIGH

director of maritime personnel, United States Maritime Commission, Washington, D. C., who makes sure that the young man really wants to go to sea before signing him on. Each vessel sailing under an operating or construction subsidy is required to carry a small number of cadets who receive personal instruction from the officers after they have finished their daily duties.

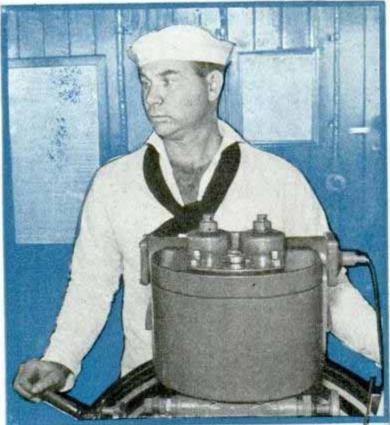


SEAS

Cadet on passenger liner testing public-address system by which passengers and crew can be commanded during emergencies. Top, the "Tusitala," full-rigged sailing ship just after she had arrived in Honolulu from New York. She made the trip in eighty-four days

cers so they will be qualified for jobs in the growing merchant fleet. Prospective cadets must be between eighteen and twenty-three years old and must be high-school graduates with four-teen standard credits. There are other classifications for those who have had other training, such as instruction on a state school ship.

New marine schools, to be operated jointly by the Maritime Commission and the Coast Guard, are being established at Hoffman and Swinburne islands in New York, at Government island in California, and at a site on the Gulf Coast. The



in the last few years. Men in the deck and engine-room departments work eight hours a day, four hours on and eight hours off, and are paid extra when overtime is necessary. Safety at sea is always more important than punching a time clock.

Seamen box and wrestle on their off watches and engage in other sports. In the tropics they sleep on deck if they desire. Libraries of several hundred volumes are provided on most ships. You get

schools will use the S.S. "Edgemoor" and the full-rigged sailing ships "Tusitala" and "Joseph Conrad" for training cruises. Bona fide merchant seamen who are unemployed are eligible for enrollment and will receive a three months' course with pay, food, clothes and quarters. Pay runs from \$36 to \$125 per month, depending on the rank of the applicant. The requirements are that the student must be a citizen, twenty-one years of age or older, and must have served a minimum of twenty-four months at sea. Instruction in the schools will include lifeboat drill, abandon ship drill, care of staterooms, overhauling of equipment and engine room and deck machinery, with special instruction for radio, electrical and cler-

ical ratings. The commission expects that the schools will graduate 3,000 men and 300 officers per year, providing a reserve of capable men for the expansion of the merchant marine.

Life at sea today is nothing like the life of the past. Working conditions and pay on American vessels are the best in the world, having been improved considerably



Quartermaster, top, at hand steering wheel on bridge. Below, trans-Pacific passenger vessel at dock

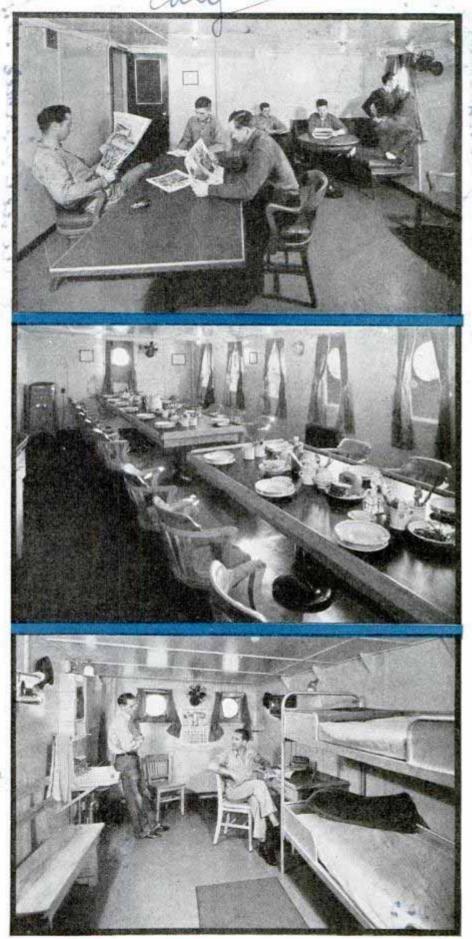
Sundays and holidays off when the ship is in a safe harbor. At foreign ports, with the captain's permission and depending on port regulations, seamen go ashore to see the sights and shop for curios.

Instead of the traditional damp, cramped and smelly forecastles the crews live in comfortable quarters on modern ships. On the two new oil tankers recently put

in commission by the Standard Dil company of California each normal crew of thirty-seven men live and sleep in light, airy cabins. Ordinary seamen get quarters as desirable as officers' staterooms. No room is occupied by more than two men. Each bunk has a deep spring mattress, sheets, and blankets. There are reading lights, rugs on the floor, hot and cold water in the porcelain washstand, desk and chairs, and even a builtin antenna for personal radio sets. There is warm and cold air circulation for each room, regulated with the weather, as well as electric fans. A harmonious color scheme decorating the walls, furnishings and curtains makes each cabin a comfortable home at sea. Old seamen used to shipping on freighters built twenty years ago can't believe their eyes when they see the quarters.

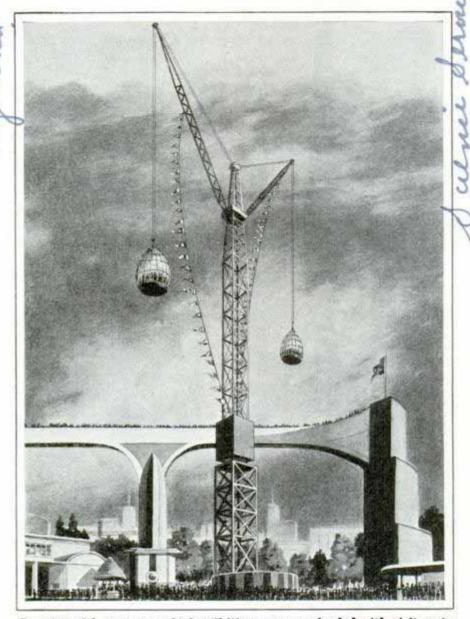
When crew members on tankers go off duty they may loaf in the unlicensed personnel's recreation room, fitted with upholstered furniture, where they will find others reading, playing cards and swapping yarns. The crew's messroom is just as modern and the ship's galley is equipped on a small scale like a passenger liner's. These two ships have the most upto-date living quarters of any vessels afloat and they are serving as models in the designing of crew's quarters for other new ships.

(Continued to page 119A)



Some of crew of the "W. H. Berg," top, in their recreation room. Center, crew's messroom of this modern oil tanker. Food similar to that served to passengers on the big liners is served to crews these days. Bottom, crew's quarters for two men on oil tanker. Note the commodious quarters which are the men's floating home

## Giant Crane to Lift Riders in Cages to See Exposition



Drawing of huge crane which will lift two cages, loaded with visitors to exposition, high into the air for view of fair

Visitors to the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition on San Francisco Bay will be given a thrill ride by a giant crane. Swinging two large steel cages 166 feet into the air, the crane will provide a new kind of sky ride. The cages will accommodate twenty-five passengers each and will be swung out over a wide arc as the crane revolves, giving the spectators a

#### 141222 Radioactive Grease Finds Flaw in Surface of Metal

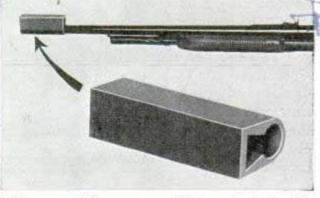
dizzy view of the exposition.

Tiny flaws in the surface of metals are being hunted by means of radioactive Rubber guard fits over gun sight as shock absorber

grease and sensitive photographic paper. Weakly radioactive compounds of thorium are mixed with amber petrolatum and smeared over the metal. which is then placed in a chamber where a pressure of 1,000 pounds to the square inch forces the grease into any surface crack. An alcohol wash removes all the grease except that which has penetrated into cracks. Then the metal is wrapped in the sensitive paper and stored for a week, during which the traces of radioactive matter leave their imprint on the paper.

#### Gun Sight Protected from Damage by Rubber Sheath

Knock your gun sight accidentally against a fence or tree and the jolt may ruin the accuracy of the rifle. If the sight is a hairbreadth out of line your aim at a target a few hundred yards away is uncertain. A rubber sheath, however, prevents, any injury to the sight. It slips over the gun sight and the end of the barrel, thus keeping dirt and dust out of the barrel while it protects the sight.



PICTURE YOUR FAMILY

You had a lot of fun during the last year. Do you have any record of it now—any quick way of turning back to those good times and enjoying them again?

The chances are you haven't. Yet, if you own a camera you have the perfect means for keep-

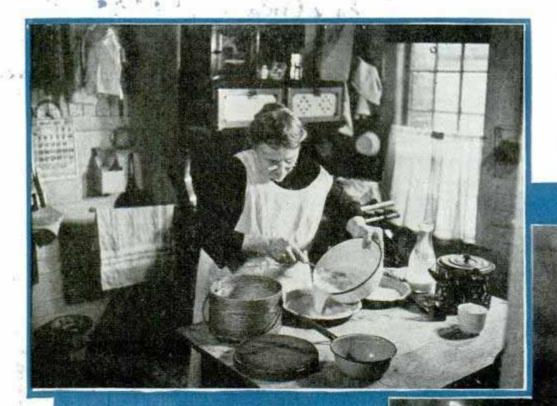
ing a record of all the things you do and enjoy, so that you can review them whenever you wish.

Any family should keep such a history of its good times. The results are a constant delight—not only when the pictures are viewed for the first time, but in later years. As a person grows older, nothing is more cherished than memories, and a camera is the ideal means of crystallizing memories in enduring form.

Many people overlook the hundreds of picture opportunities that occur every year in any home, thinking only an unusual occasion or striking subject deserves a picture. As a matter of fact, it is usually the small, everyday occurrences that yield



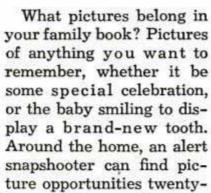
Top, an animated "still" makes a lively entry in the pictorial annals of the family. Below, the family history book. It should be a loose-leaf album to permit additions from time to time



Baking of a historical cake is good for a series of pictures— and watch the candles grow on a cake from birthday to birthday! Silhouette, below in center, adds decorative quality to family record. And don't neglect the pets

pictures with the most appeal. A traveler can make a grand picture of towering mountains or a lofty waterfall somewhere in the west; such pictures are certainly well worth while. But a picture of your small son with pencil and paper, trying to

draw circles around an inverted saucer, is far more valuable to you than the grandeur of all the mountains in the world.



four hours a day, 365 days in the year. Just take down your 1939 calendar and note the special occasions: New Year's Day, Easter, Fourth of July, Christmas and the rest. Each means holiday activities. Each has a story to be told in pictures. Now, note the family birthdays and anniversaries, graduation days, the opening of school, and possibly a wedding day.

But hundreds of other occasions, not so special, are replete with picture opportunities. There are outdoor and indoor sports—baseball on the



lawn, checkers in the living-room, sleigh rides and skating parties. There are week-end trips, a summer camp, and a vacation that certainly demand ample picturing. Fishing and hunting excursions are full of picture chances.



from year to year. Details are interesting, too; the sunny corner in the bedroom, flowers in the kitchen window. Outside, there are improvements in landscaping, new shrubs, new flagstones in the garden walk. Before-- and-after pictures tell the story well, and to make it complete, catch a few inbetween snaps of the actual placing of the flagstones, the planting of flowers.

There are opportunities for biography, too. Indeed, each member of the family deserves a special section of the family

(Continued to page 114A)



Top, the family orchestra rehearses. Don't fail to picture children dressing for a party. Drawing shows how to enlarge from movie film; below, a bedroom scene worth remembering POPULAR MECHANICS 1

#### Cotton Runway for Airport Is Covered with Asphalt



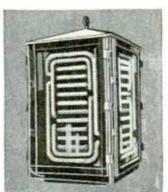
Three men unroll cotton binder on airport runway after truck lays down adhesive coating of tar

Airplanes are taking off from a cotton runway at Reilly field in Alabama. Cotton fabric was used as a binder for the surfacing. A tar preparation was first sprayed over the runway; then workmen unrolled the long "blanket" of cotton. This was covered with asphalt and then rolled smooth.

# Skimming Milk Made Impossible by Crushing the Cream

Milk can be fixed so that the cream cannot be skimmed off, it has been found. The feat is accomplished by distributing the fat, which forms cream, so thoroughly through the milk that it is never able to unite. A cream-spreading machine drives fresh milk through small openings under pressure of 2,000 to 2,500 pounds, crushing the fat globules into tiny particles.

#### Five-Barred Neon Traffic Light Costs Less to Operate



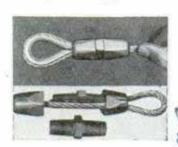
Motorists watching a five-barred traffic light know just how soon the signal will change. The bars are neon tubes which gleam through the thick-est weather; when one-fifth of the time cycle has

elapsed, one of the light tubes goes out, another is extinguished after the next fifth, and so on, and the driver can always tell how long he must wait for the change to red or green.

#### Clamp for Splicing Wire Rope Eliminates Tedious Work

Hours of cable-splicing can be reduced to minutes of easy work by a clamp, which

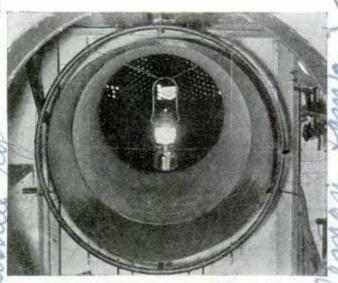
is available for all standard sizes of wire rope. The necessity of calling in a skilled cable rigger is obviated, for anyone can apply the clamp. Inside the clamp are



two half-sleeves which fit snugly around a section of the cable and join together to form a threaded core around the joint to be made. This core tapers slightly from the center so that the sections of cable are forced together tightly as the heavy locking nuts are screwed toward the center.

#### Lantern Defies a Hurricane in Wind-Tunnel Tests

Hurricane blasts exceeding 100 miles per hour were employed recently to test a pressure mantle lantern. Placed in a wind tunnel used for testing airplane parts and construction, the lantern was not extinguished by the hurricane-like wind created by the big propeller.



Lantern suspended in wind tunnel for test in hurricane blast of 100 miles per hour

## Fifteen-Mile Field Gun Hurls Ninety-Five Pound Projectile



Official photo by U. S. Army Air Corps

Big field gun being cleaned after firing ninety-five pound shell. The weapon rides on a carrier fitted with ten rubber-tired wheels

Firing a ninety-five pound shell at the rate of one a minute, the U.S. army's new 155-millimeter gun has a range of about fifteen miles. The shell reaches a height of 30,000 feet at the top of its trajectory. Complete with its heavy, tenwheeled rubber-tired carrier, the gun weighs fifteen and one-half tons, but is towed in one load. It can be set up in firing position in thirty to forty-five minutes. Developed

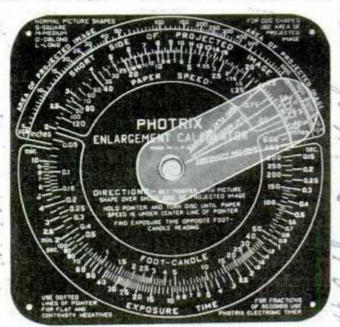
in the last two years, the gun is one of the few field artillery guns of purely American design.

#### Hosiery Fiber Made from Coal Is Elastic but Strong as Steel

From such common raw materials as coal, water and air, du Pont chemists have developed a synthetic fiber for hosiery, fabrics, bristles and plastic products. Given the name "Nylon," this fiber can be drawn into filaments as strong as steel and yet more elastic than natural fibers, fine and lustrous. It is described as the first organic textile fiber made by man from minerals. Already toothbrush bristles are being made from the new product. One of its most promising uses is in the manufacture of hosiery of extreme sheerness, elasticity, strength and resistance to runs. Other possibilities are sewing thread, knit goods, racket strings, fishing lines, transparent wrapping film and clothing fabrics.

#### Calculator Figures **Enlarging Time**

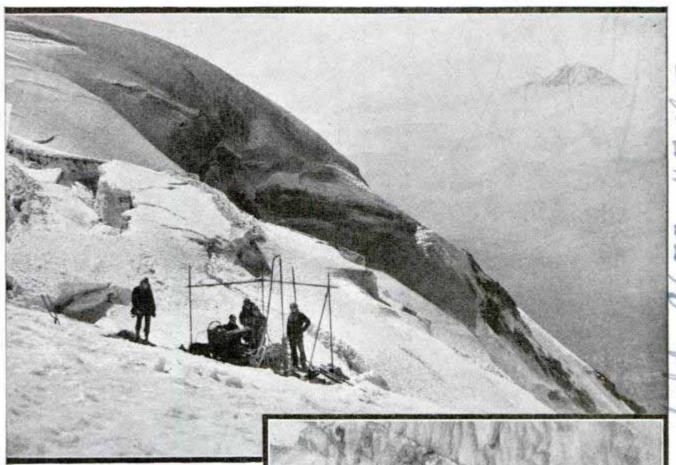
Exposure time for enlarging photos can be arrived at accurately and simply with the aid of a "slide rule" calculator just brought out. The strength of the light emerging from the enlarger lens must first be measured with a light meter, and the emulsion speed of the paper must be known. Then the calculator is put to work, figuring proper exposure time from the area, emulsion speed, and flat or contrasty quality of the negative. The picture size scale extends up to forty by sixty inches, and the exposure time scale from ten minutes down to fifteen-hundredths second.



This simple slide-rule calculator helps to find exposure time for enlarging photos

Pour de nemado

MINING a GLACIER



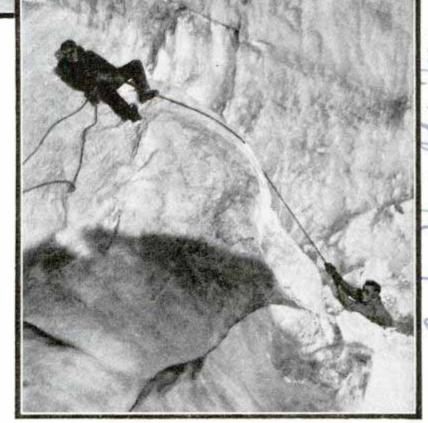
Top, drilling at lower edge of crater. Bottom, rope taut, and nerves taut, for descent into crevasse

IT TAKES from three o'clock in the morning until noon to climb up the steep rock walls and over the treacherous glaciers to the summit of snow-capped Mount Adams in southern Washington. More than once you are tempted to give up as your lungs heave for more oxygen and your muscles cramp from cold and overexertion. When you get there, 12,307 feet above sea level, you expect to find a storm-ripped flag, and little else.

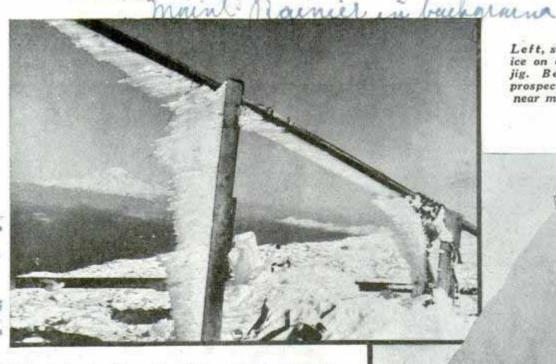
But the shriek of the wind over the last hump brings with it the whinnying of horses and the throb of a gasoline engine. Impossible as it seems, the

scene on top of the Pacific Northwest's second highest mountain is one of industry.

The reason is a fortune in sulphur icebound in the summit crater. Blinding bliz-



zards, tremendous ice crevasses and all the dangers of Arctic-like high-altitude conditions stand between it and its market, but determined Wade H. Dean doesn't care



Left, storm-streamlined ice on overturned drill jig. Below, a sulphur prospector goes climbing near mountaintop mine

about that. He said eight years ago that he would "lick that mountain" if it took him fifteen years, and now his goal appears within his grasp.

His crew of fur-clad prospectors has made a home on the bleak summit and between blizzards has succeeded in digging enough holes through the flinty ice to "prove up" a million-ton deposit of fifty per cent sulphur ore, more than 100,000 tons of thirty-three and one-third per cent alum (aluminum sulphate) and substantial deposits of gypsum. Now plans are being laid for a nine-mile aerial tramway to bring the ore literally out of the sky.

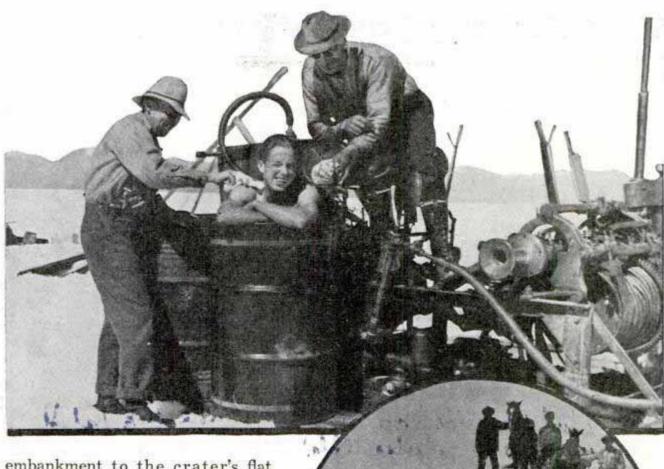
The Mount Adams project is considered commercially practical because of the ready Northwest market for the sulphur as a farm fertilizer and a chemical reagent used in paper mills. The gypsum may be used either as a fertilizer or in the making of plaster of paris. Alum is widely used in the purification of water, and interesting prospects for its use as a source of aluminum are being investigated.

Upon reaching the top you stand in a chilling wind and survey the unusual scene from the ice-covered roof of a little cabin which is the prospectors' headquarters. Built in 1921 as a United States Forest Service lookout station but later abandoned as impractical, the cabin is anchored with heavy cables so the wind cannot toss it over a 1,000-foot precipice just a few yards away.

The icy surface of the crater slopes slightly downward to the north—a great white 200-acre shelf ending abruptly in the emptiness above the clouds. A black rock projection which Dean identifies as "the Pinnacle" juts skyward to the left, a remnant of the west crater rim. Where the other crater walls long since have been carried away, the ice is bent over at the edges, cracked into mighty crevasses, perched perilously before beginning its near-vertical descent in the tumultuous Adams Glacier. Beyond, in a sea of clouds, Mount Saint Helens protrudes its symmetrical white head to the left, and over more cotton carpeting on its right the defiant high summit of Mount Rainier looks deceivingly close.

The Sky Mine has few visitors, but when one appears, he and Dean rope themselves together for safety to descend a steep ice

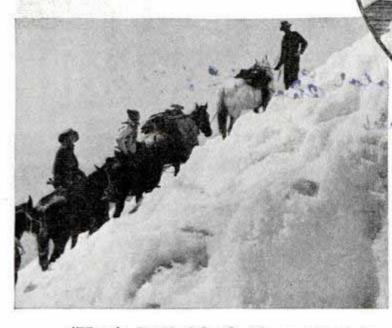
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embankment to the crater's flat surface.

"Chock-full of ice," Dean shouts in the roar of the wind. "Most of the sulphur's underneath."

He points out three dark ridges of sulphur rock, each about 400 feet long and varying from 100 to 400 feet in width.



"Here's South Island—it's an island in ice. . . Over there where we're going is North Ridge," Dean calls out the sulphurous landmarks. "You can see the end of

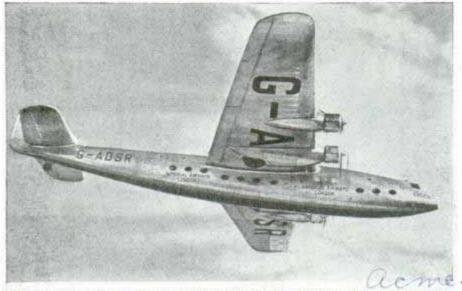
Top, oil barrel serves as bathtub. Bottom, pack train headed for the mine. Circle, pack horses and crew on the summit

another ridge farther over to the right. That one hasn't been named. It's a bad spot—full of hydrogen sulphide gas. Some of the boys have had some mighty narrow escapes in the fumes."

The smell of sulphur is all over the mountaintop, and workmen near the source of the fumes find silver coins in their pockets tarnished in only a few hours. On one end of South Island a fumarole exhales the gas and water vapor at a tem-

(Continued to page 129A)

### Giant Landplane Has Space for Forty-Two



Twenty-one ton passenger-carrying landplane in flight. Note that undercarriage has been retracted into the engine nacelles

With a passenger capacity of forty-two, one of the largest landplanes in regular service has retractable undercarriage which folds into the engine nacelles when the ship is in the air. The plane weighs twenty-one tons, has a top speed of 200 miles per hour and cruises at 160 miles an hour. Its wing span is 123 feet. The plane, Imperial Airways' new "Ensign," was built for European and Empire service.

Winch Pulls 55,000-Pound Load aboard Up-Tilted Truck

Cargoes so tremendous that they tilt the truck cab up in the air are loaded with the greatest of ease by a winch truck, the winch being geared to the truck motor. The triplemotored machine being loaded in the photograph shown here weighed 55,000 pounds. As it was pulled forward, of course, the front end settled to the ground. The winch is controlled by the driver

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This unusual photo shows front of truck tilted into air while powerful - winch pulls a load of 55,000 pounds onto the truck bed

Electric Secretary Rides Along for Dictation in Plane or Automobile



Dictating to the "electric secretary" in auto

You can take your secretary along on your next business trip by plane, train or automobile and dictate a "talking letter" that folds into an envelope and is mailed for three cents. It is an electric secretary, recording and reproducing the dictator's voice on a material so thin that ten average-size letters weigh only an ounce. The apparatus itself is about the size and weight of a portable typewriter. It can be operated by automobile batteries. The salesman or executive can dictate letters while driving his car, play the record back to himself immediately, and listen to "pep talks" received from the home office.

# Fingertip Puppet Show Fits in Overnight Bag



There are no strings to the puppet show staged by a Chicago couple. Theirs is a fingertip performance—and the whole table-top troupe fits neatly into an ordinary over-night bag. The dolls are fashioned in the usual manner, but without legs. Two holes in the lower part of the costume serve as openings for two fin-gers of the operator's hand, which form the marionette's legs. In the bottom picture, one operator controls two dolls at left, another controls the dragon, a cloth over the arm becoming the dragon's body

Sea-Going Postman Picks Up Floating Mailbox



Sea-going postman finds floating mailbox dropped from ship and removes the letters to be forwarded to their destinations

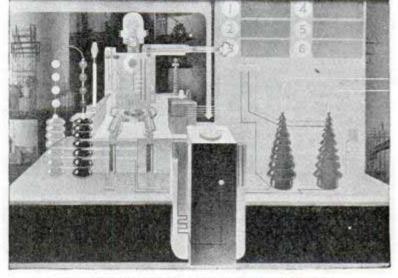
Floating mailboxés, dropped overboard by passing ships, are picked up offshore by wading postmen. The boxes are carried to shore by the tide and the mail in them is forwarded to destination. Thus ships save the time of putting into port for nothing more than mailing a few letters.

Two-Tone Tongs Handy for Darkroom

Red tongs that show white under the ruby light of the darkroom, and black tongs that stay black, are offered as an aid to the photographer to keep from mixing chemicals. Made of unbreakable plastic, acidproof and stainproof, they are sold in pairs. The red pair is intended to be used. only for handling prints in the developer solution and the black one only for the hypo solution.

### Electric Robot Walks and Answers Visitors' Questions

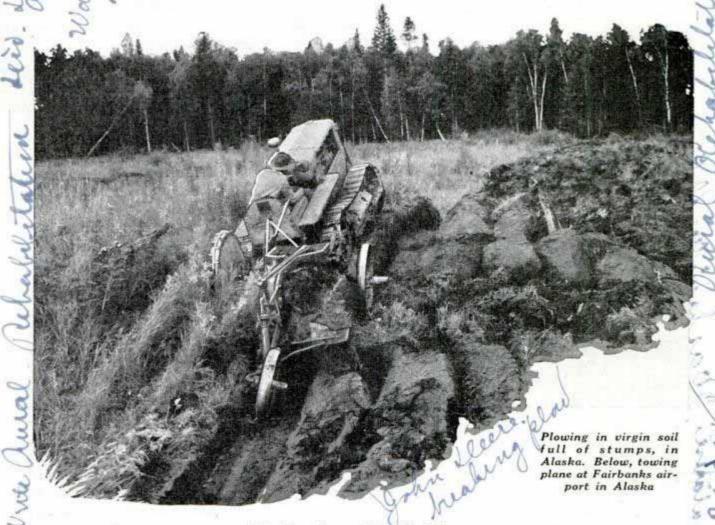
Visitors to the Golden Gate International Exposition this year may be surprised to find an electrical robot at the information desk of a public utility company's exhibit. It will answer questions, move about and perform simple actions. You step to the information desk and dial your question to the "clerk in charge." The robot, at a microphone, tunes in by remote control and reacts to the question by giving complete information on rural electrification, family budget and other powerindustry problems.



Robot ready to answer questions of visitors

Paulu George

# ANEW FRONTIER

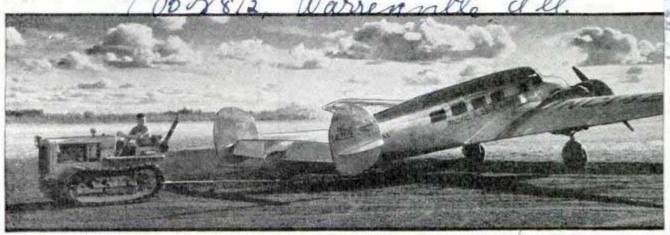


By Ruth and Bill Albee

WEST of the Mackenzie river, and stretching northwest from central British Columbia to Bering strait, lies an area half as large as the United States. Here are vast unpopulated areas containing resources of farm lands, grazing lands, timber, minerals, oil and water power, all waiting for the modern pioneer or adven-

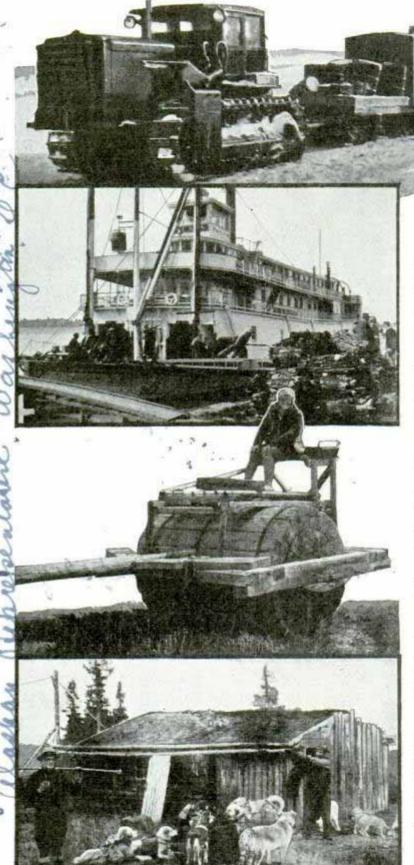
turer to come and claim as his own. This area has as great a range of climate and almost as many opportunities as the northern half of the United States had when our forefathers settled there.

Economists claim that one reason this last depression was severe was that there were no more new frontiers where the un-



#22

Pacific alaskan acrossop.



Top, a northern freighter with a load of supplies. Below, unloading baled salmon at Fort Yukon, a road roller made of logs in Yukon territory, and using dogs as pack animals in summer. In winter the dogs are sled animals

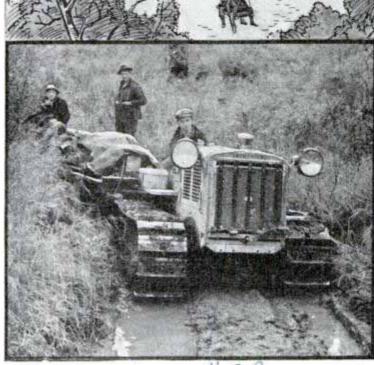
employed could start life anew, acquire a "stake," and develop new sources of wealth and new markets for goods. The depression has developed in the hearts of thousands a yearning for the security and independence for which the frontier has become a symbol—a piece of land they can call their own, a shelter, however crude, against cold and storm, and the opportunity to live off the land regardless of the booms and depressions of the industrial world.

There may be no new frontiers within the geographical limits of the United States, but what of Alaska and northwestern Canada? The opportunity is there for those who really want it. Why, then, haven't more people taken advantage of it? The answer seems to be, first, the widespread misconception of the country; second, the general lack of pioneering knowledge and temperament among the younger generation.

No one wants to send a horde of tenderfeet into the "sticks." And yet it is likely that a young man or woman is in less danger out in the wilderness than in the modern city. You hear of people torn apart by grizzlies, freezing to death in blizzards, drowning in rapids, getting lost and starving in the wilds. But they are no more representative of life in the far north than the daily stories in the newspapers about shootings, kidnapings and auto accidents, are representative of life in the cities.

On the edge of the frontier boys of twelve often are found doing men's work-driving dogteams, tractors, running swift rivers in poling boats, shooting moose and butchering them for the family larder. Today the pioneer has available all sorts of modern devices with which to conquer the wilderness if he has the money to buy them. The continuous-track tractor goes where there are no roads, and hauls enormous loads over snow and ice. The airplane brings the most remote localities within a few hours of civilization. The outboard motor makes possible the navigation of the swiftest and shallowest streams. The radio





Top, seining salmon, a major Alaskan "crop." Center, using a cableway to cross an Alaskan river. Bottom, bad roads or even lack of roads do not stop freight "trains" like this in Alaska

connects the isolated cabins with the entire world. Gasoline lamps are common. Some northern pioneers have individual electric power plants with all the modern electrical conveniences.

Even though the average pioneer may not be able to afford these mechanical aids at first, he benefits by their mere presence. The airplane, for instance, is always available to rush a doctor or medical supplies to remote localities in emergencies, often at government expense. Actually, the ax, the rifle and a few simple tools are all that the modern pioneer needs, if he has the will to use them.

(Continued to page 149A)

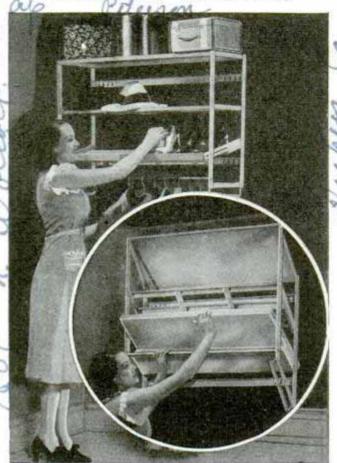
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POPULAR MECHANICS

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### 60

## Rack for Clothes Closet Eliminates Crowding



Clothes closet rack in place. Inset, folding rack against wall of the closet

Increasing closet capacity by permitting storage of clothing more efficiently, a folding rack for home, apartment or office is on the market. Made of steel, it comes in standard lengths of two, three or four feet, or may be obtained in sizes to fit some particular closet. The rack is mounted on the wall with four screws. It provides a full-length hanger bar for coats, suits and dresses, a full-length shoe shelf, a ventilated hat shelf with dust cover, a general utility shelf and two belt and tie racks.

### Flashlight Tray for Change Helps Sell Batteries

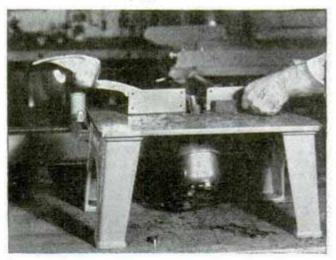


Sales of flashlight batteries multiplied when stores introduced a counter tray for change which flashes "thank you" when the customer reaches for his money. On each side of the tray there is display room for three batteries, serving as a reminder to the customer.

### Speedy Single-Seat Fighters Lead Aerial Offense

Claimed to be two of the fastest singleseat fighting planes in the world, the "Hurricane" and the "Spitfire," shown on the opposite page, are being produced in quantities for Great Britain's Royal Air Force. The "Hurricane" has a rated speed of 350 miles per hour, but has attained slightly more than 400 miles an hour in some tests. It has a liquid-cooled Rolls-Royce twelvecylinder engine which develops 1,100 horsepower. The ship can climb to 15,000 feet in six minutes and has a service ceiling of 39,000 feet. Split flaps enable it to land at sixty miles per hour. It carries eight guns, four in each wing. The "Spitfire," an all-metal plane, is reported to have a speed of about 400 miles per hour. It also is driven by a Rolls-Royce engine.

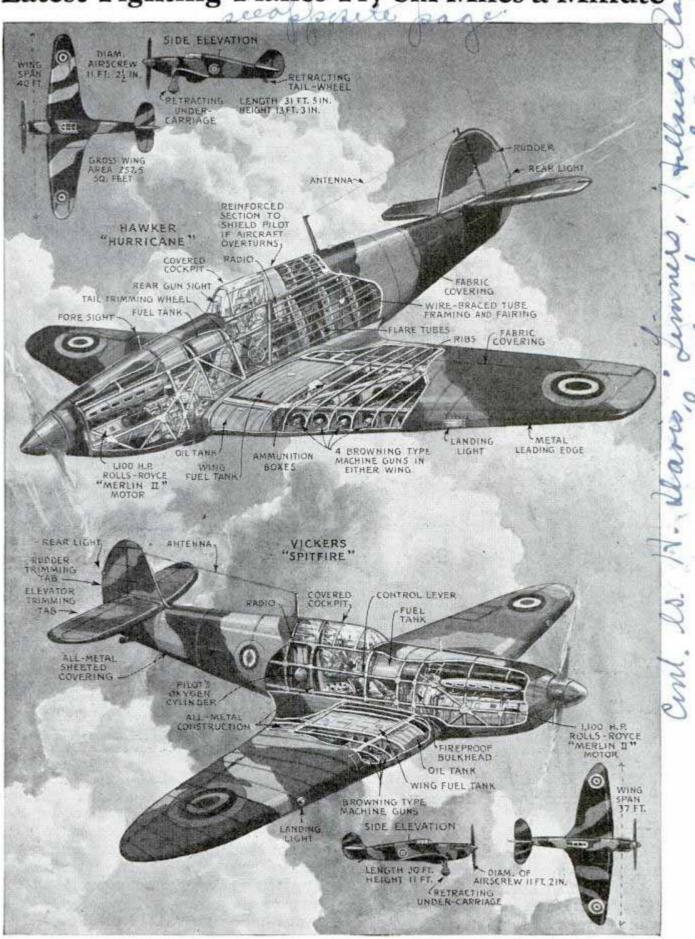
### Table Shaper for the Workshop Has Tilting Motor Holder



This table shaper with tilting motor is handy for the home or professional craftsman

With a tilting motor holder that permits changing the angle of the motor, a table shaper can be used for tonguing and grooving, rabbeting, rounding over corners and all types of molding cuts. It has a three-eighths horsepower motor. An adjustable straight guide and a safety guard with spring tension are available for use with the shaper.

Latest Fighting Planes Fly Six Miles a Minute



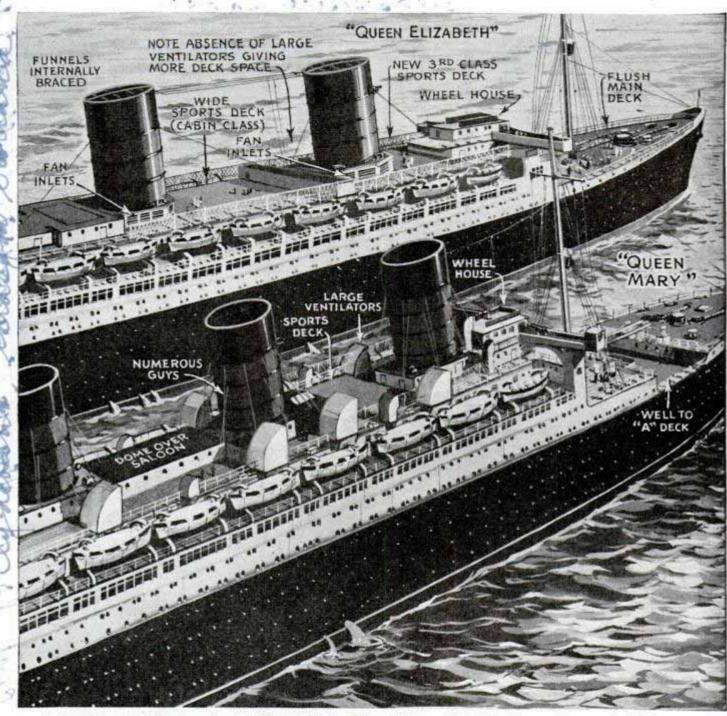
Here are drawings of England's latest fighting planes, both of which are rated at speeds around six miles per minute. Note Browning; type machine guns in wings of both ships

Cont. So. A. Slaves

Limners

# POPULAR MECHANICS

### Latest Liner Is Larger than the "Queen Mary"

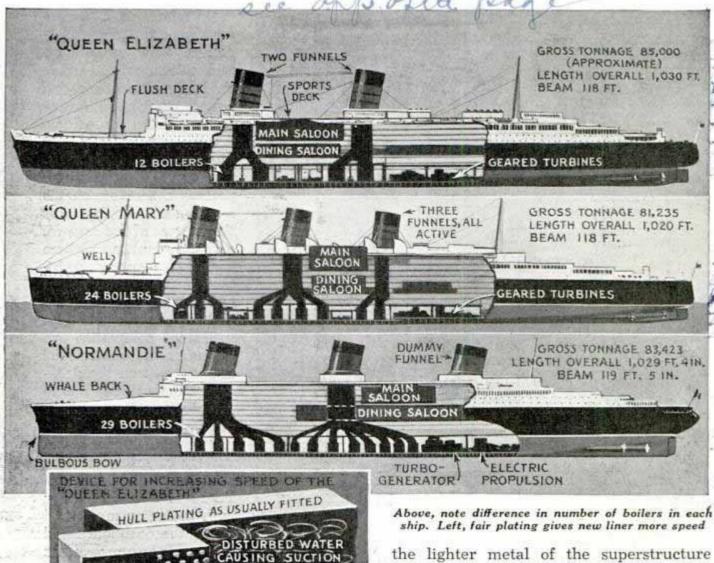


Outstanding in this comparison of "Queen Elizabeth" and "Queen Mary" is the vast increase in deck space. Note, in the new liner, that provision has been made for a third-class sports deck

INTRODUCING the latest ideas in ship construction, the gigantic new Cunard-White Star liner, "Queen Elizabeth," was launched recently at Clydebank, Glasgow, Scotland, and the work of fitting begun. The great passenger-carrying vessel is ten feet longer than her sister ship, the "Queen Mary," and offers considerably more deck space than either the "Queen Mary" or the big French liner, "Normandie." This is due to the absence of large ventilators and to the lowering of the main saloon's height on

the "Queen Elizabeth." Space on deck is reserved for sports activities of first, second and even third class passengers. Reducing the height of the main saloon eliminates the necessity for interrupting the run of the sports deck, as was the case on the "Queen Mary." Another feature of the new ocean queen is the use of very large water-tube boilers, the largest ever fitted into a ship. They are so large that they could not be lowered into the vessel in one piece, as is usually done, but had to be

### Giant Boilers to Drive the "Queen Elizabeth"



made in sections and then fitted together in the boiler rooms. The boilers are in four stokeholds, making it possible to fit only two funnels. The "Queen Elizabeth" has finer lines forward than the "Queen Mary," with a greater rake to the bow. When it was found that very little water came aboard over the bows of the "Queen Mary" in a gale, for which she was provided with a well, this type of construction was eliminated in the "Queen Elizabeth" and the main deck was carried forward flush to the stem. Still another feature is the provision of expansion joints to take the strain off

FAIRED PLATING

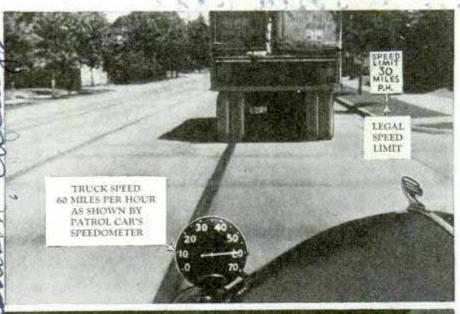
EVEN FLOW OF WATER

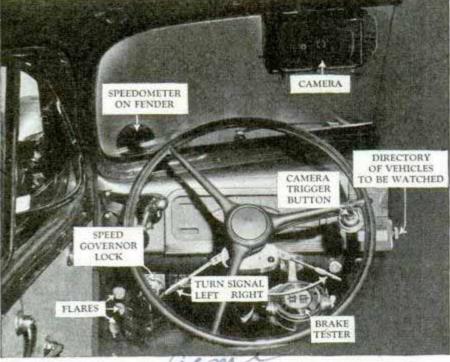
ADDS TO SPEED

TO BOW

the lighter metal of the superstructure when the ship is "hogging" and "sagging" in heavy weather. To decrease skin friction and "drag," all the underwater plating has been faired, producing an increase in speed without adding to the power plant. The "Queen Elizabeth" has only twelve boilers, compared to twenty-four in the "Queen Mary" and twenty-nine in the "Normandie." Her tonnage, approximately 85,000 tons, is larger than either of the other two vessels, the "Queen Mary" hav-ing 81,235 tons and the "Normandie" 83,423 tons. Thus the new ship will offer large cargo space. Instead of big ventilators that robbed passengers of deck space, the "Queen Elizabeth" has fan inlets through which air is drawn to ventilate all parts of the ship. The inlets are located inconspicuously around the funnels at deck level. Another deck-clearing device on the new liner is bracing of funnels internally, eliminating numerous guy wires, such as are found on the "Queen Mary."

### Windshield Camera Snaps Speeder with Proof





Top, picture snapped by windshield camera shows speedometer, speed limit sign and truck violating law. Below, "cockpit" of investigator's car

By mounting a speedometer on the front fender and a camera on the windshield, police or private investigators can collect photographic evidence against speeders. As the car trails a law violator on the highway, the pursuing driver presses a button on his steering wheel. This trips the shutter of the camera. and the resulting picture shows the speed registered on the meter at the moment, the car ahead and its license number. Insurance companies are using this method of checking up on the drivers of insured cars. One private investigator's car outfitted with this "candid" camera carries also a variety of safety devices and test instruments. There is a brake tester with indicator mounted below the dashboard and a speed governor lock which helps in checking speed violators. Levers below the steering wheel flash the signal for left or right turn, and there is a directory to which the driver can refer for numbers of cars to be watched.

### Typewriter Sends on Telephone to Telegraphic Printer

Newspaper reporters covering a news event in the field may soon be able to typewrite their stories and transmit them simultaneously to the city editor over telephone wires. A simple telegraph printing system which has just been patented makes possible the use of the telephone instead of the private leased wires such as carry the news of the great press associations today. Thus the cost of transmission can be cut to the mere tolls the telephone company would charge for a local or long-

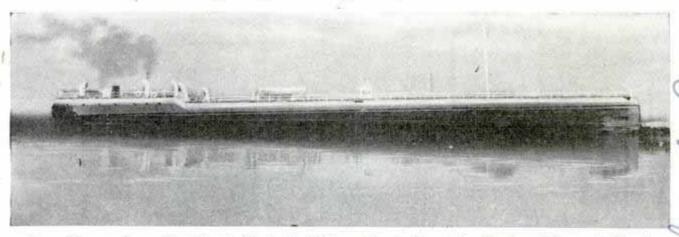
distance call for the actual time the line was kept busy. The invention is that of W. G. H. Finch, formerly assistant chief engineer of the Federal Communications Commission. The transmitting device is a special typewriter keyboard which may be carried by the reporter or any field worker requiring portable telegraphic printing facilities, and is operated from the nearest telephone. It feeds its signals into the telephone line by electrical induction without actually touching the wire.

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### Nickel-Lined Cargo Ship Built Like Submarine



Resembling a submersible ship, the "Dolomite IV" is really a tanker plying the Great Lakes and Atlantic. By steam-cleaning its nickel-lined hold it can change cargo overnight from molasses or kerosene to grain

More like a submarine in appearance than the traditional freight steamers of the Great Lakes, a Diesel-powered cargo ship made her maiden voyage recently with 1,200,000 gallons of kerosene in her nickellined hold, unloaded her cargo and took on a load of wheat in the same tanks the next day. The entire ship was welded. The hull was made of electrically welded steel channels bent to form the main structure, and this entailed no less than forty miles of welding. The five cargo tanks were lined with sheet nickel welded to the frame, and

at the seams. The nickel lining permits shipment of corrosives in bulk, and immediate changeover from oil or other liquid cargo to grain, for the tank walls are rapidly cleaned by means of steam jets. In regular service on the lakes and between Atlantic and gulf ports, the ship named "Dolomite IV" is intended to carry kerosene, wheat, molasses, lye, oil and other products. The vessel never was actually launched. Built in a dry spur of the old Erie canal, the "Dolomite" was floated by siphoning water into the lock.

## Lighted Film Viewer Magnifies Negative for Inspection June

Lighted from beneath, a desk-type film viewer has a magnifying lens at the top to enlarge the image for close inspection. An entire strip of negatives can be drawn through the tunnel from side to side for examination. Since the film need not touch any part of the viewer, there is no danger of scratching it. The light plugs in on the house electric circuit.

## Mop with Wringer Attached Is Dried by Twisting Key



Attached to a new household mop is a wringer of its own. A few simple twists of a key winds the mop tight and squeezes it practically dry. Metal parts are cadmium-plated.



Examining a strip of film under magnifying glass

Durch



boats and the prow of the ship buried deep in a plaster iceberg that extends to the ceiling. By means of hydraulic jacks, the entire set is tipped to simulate the natural list of a ship. The davits holding the lifeboats are operated by electric winches and with passengers scurrying around in a terrified manner, the commands of the crew blending with distress cries, the crunching of ice on the deck-all amid an overhanging fog —the scene is vested with startling realism.

The actual collision is effected by means of miniatures and the process screen. First, the iceberg is built so it sticks a foot or two above water in a studio tank and is filmed by a camera moving toward it at a speed com-

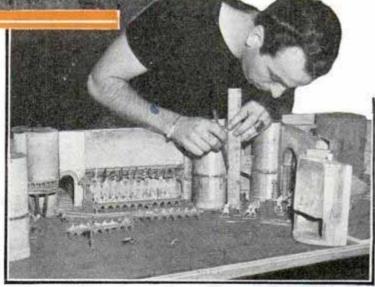
N THE theater's screen, an ocean liner is plowing through a choppy sea. Suddenly, an iceberg appears. A crash is inevitable and there is the crunch of steel against ice, then a grim picturization of tragedy on the high seas.

a nsas Cela

Engrossed in the story, you do not question the realism of the scene. But afterwards, perhaps, you wonder how such an effect was attained. Filming such a sequence, you know, would be impossible, even though you disregarded the sheer impracticability of it.

The answer lies, partly at least, in miniatures.

In order to weave this action into a film, a slice of an ocean greyhound is built on the sound stage, showing life-



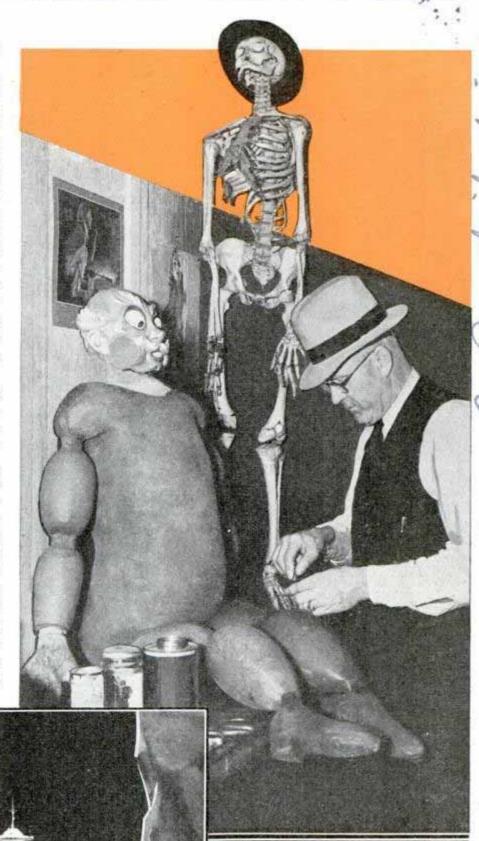
Top, miniature builders preparing train for movie. Bottom, models of principal sets in "The Adven-tures of Robin Hood" were used to plan action and determine camera angles before the full-size set was constructed

## PUNCH TO MOVIES

parable to the speed of the liner.

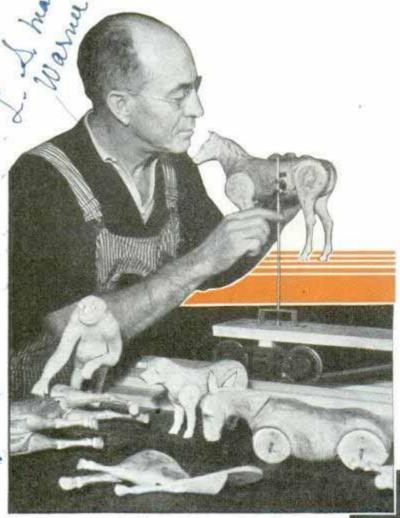
After the life-sized prow has been constructed, a process screen is placed in front of it. On the bridge are stationed two men looking into the transparency as if they were trying to catch a glimpse of an iceberg in the fog. As soon as the first glimpse of the iceberg flashes onto the screen, action on shipboard starts, carrying out the illusion that the ship has ripped into the mass of ice.

This is but one example of the way in which miniatures are being used on the screen. When stagecoaches go over cliffs, don't weep for the horses going to their doom. They're only miniatures. If a submarine is split asunder, a city burned to the ground, or a native village swept away by a hurricane, it's usually more of the same. War films of land and sea, and usually, the air, would be pretty tame affairs if it



Top, preparing inflated figure for "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Bottom, model of modernistic ocean liner used in the film, "The Big Broadcast of 1938"





weren't for "minnies" and that goes double for pictures featuring mine blasts as was the case in "Black Fury" and the earthquake in "San Francisco."

Four square miles of buildings were burned and \$2,000,000 went up in the smoke of the great Chicago fire of 1871. Translating this catastrophe to the screen was done with a huge miniature of the city and lake front as it looked at the time.

Covering four acres of ground and costing \$25,000 to build, the model provided for many spectacular effects, including the illusion of huge clouds of gas bursting into flames hundreds of feet above the main blaze; iron girders melting and a river ablaze with burning oil.

For long shots, direct views of the conflagration were spliced directly into the film as part of the running action. These were only momentary flashes, however, as the film makers will not run the risk of having a miniature detected by keeping it too long on the screen. Other angles made of the burning city were projected on a transparency before which the actors performed and the whole re-shot.

In "Submarine D-1." the submarine comes to the surface in the path of a gunboat and the latter rams into its side. Slowly the submarine sinks. A shadow appears on the water and then fades away -the submarine is on its way to the floor of the sea. Expert engineering skill and \$25,000 worth of labor and materials went into a twenty-five-foot submarine controlled from an electric panel on a barge. Under the direction of James Gibbons, Warner's No. 1 special effects man, studio workers produced a working model. Nine one-horsepower motors furnished its power and there were ingenious mechanisms for guiding and submerging it. This plant was in a sealed section and the rest of the underwater boat was so arranged that it would sink in a credible manner. Near the prow







Top, building animation into animal carvings. Center, model plane built for film of crash into mountain. Below it is racing plane resting on plaster mountain. Bottom, miniature plane before crash

was placed a breakaway plate, a section that would remain airtight while the boat was in operation but which would buckle as soon as the cruiser plowed into it. So perfectly did the costly toy function that an underwater camera made an excellent record of the craft as it sank to its grave.

The effect produced in a miniature is heightened by the completeness of the supplementary closeups. A recent film called for the wreck of a crack train. Engines were built in the studio shops and the long shots turned out

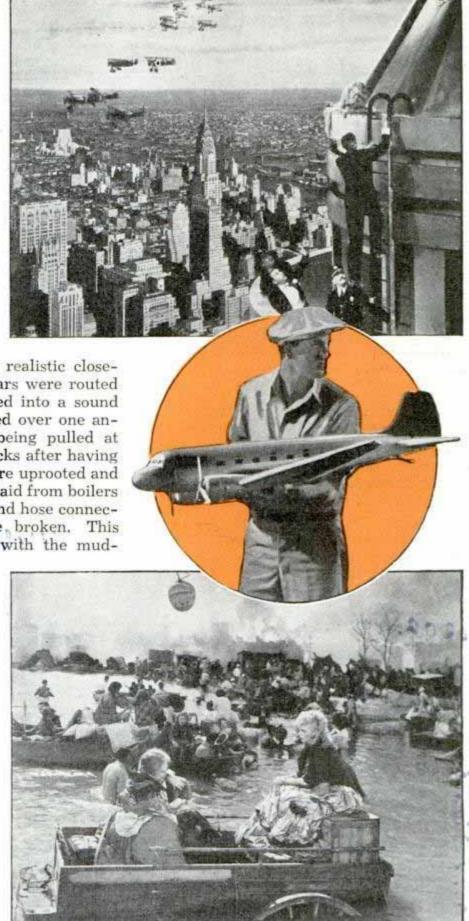
without any trouble. For realistic closeups a string of Pullman cars were routed into a large shed converted into a sound stage, jacked up and tipped over one another with their trucks being pulled at right angles across the tracks after having been dismantled. Rails were uprooted and twisted; steam pipes were laid from boilers to points where coupling and hose connections would naturally be broken. This escaping vapor, together with the mud-

splattered passengers, the first-aid crews, and trainmen gave the scene the proper authenticity.

A miniature is so built that it may be filmed from many different angles and not infrequently does it provide background for dozens of scenes. Generally, they are built oneforty-eighth the size of original objects.

When whole cities are built, as is frequently done, they are complete with pedestrians, motor cars, surface and elevated cars, signal lights and other bits of animation that are found in the metropolitan city.

The most elaborate of (Continued to page 116A)



Top, scene from "King Kong," a triumph for the miniature builders.

Center, model transport being strung on guide wire for action in film.

Bottom, burning of Chicago in movie, "In Old Chicago"

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### Gauge Checks Rail Alinement for a Hundredth-Inch Error

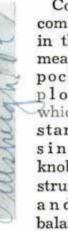


Inspector pushes gauge along interurban track of San Francisco Bay bridge and watches dial showing alinement of three rails

Variations as small as one-hundredth of an inch in alinement of rails can be detected by a gauge used on the third-rail line crossing the San Francisco-Oakland Bay bridge. Pushing the fivewheeled gauge along the track, the inspector watches a dial and measures the elevation of the third rail as fast as he can walk. The gauge at once

checks the alinement of the running rail, height of the protection timber above the third rail and the horizontal distance from rail to timber, and the height of third rail above running rail.

### H1202. Pocket-Size Explosion Meter Tests Combustible Gas



Concentration of combustible gases in the air can be measured with a pocket-size explosion meter which gives an instant reading. A single control knob turns the instrument on or off and adjusts its balanced electrical

circuit. The sample of air to be tested is drawn in by a piston-type pump and flows over a hot platinum detector filament

m & a Exploremeter

which forms part of a balanced circuit. Combustion of gases on the surface of this filament increases the temperature of the wire and unbalances the circuit, causing a deflection of the needle on the dial. The meter weighs less than three pounds.

### Sculptor Models Concrete for Fun as Well as Profit

After working with concrete for thirty-five years, a Wooster, Ohio, man turned to modeling in concrete as a hobby. Some of his sculpture is marketable, some is done purely for fun. A miniature dinosaur was built for display at a gasoline station. One of his most ambitious projects in concrete was a tiny amusement park on a table top. It included fountains, a lake to hold several small fish, a lighthouse and numerous animals, one of them a monkey on a tightrope. Other products of his hobby include a concrete mailbox and various garden decorations, such as animals, frogs and toadstools.



Dinosaur sculptured in concrete becomes an attraction at a gasoline filling station

# Automatic Direction Finder Is Aid to Pilot

Latest radio aid to air navigation is an automatic direction finder that helps the pilot stay on course. Once tuned to a station, the device points continuously to the station so that the pilot need pay no attention to its operation, merely glancing at the pointer on its face. Developed by engineers of the Sperry Gyroscope company and the RCA Manufacturing company, the instrument indicates the exact bearing of the radio station to which it has been tuned. In addition, it immediately shows the pilot when he has passed over the station and gives positive information to confirm the "cone of silence" which he may have received if he has been flying on the regular radio beam. The direction finder also provides a means of obtaining a drift or "crab" angle at any given time. The pilot may

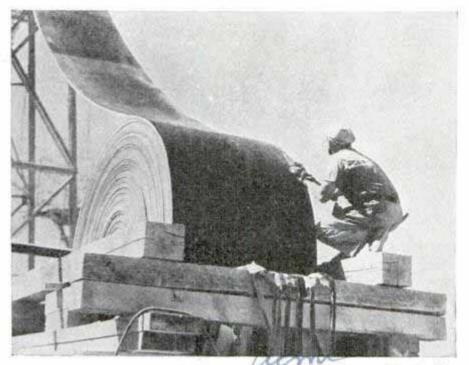
tune in a station toward which he is flying and observe whether or not the heading of the airplane is constantly changing. It is only necessary then to turn the plane to the right or left and note the difference between the actual heading of the plane and #1210



Automatic direction finder in cockpit of plane. Here the instrument is being set to tune in radio station

the direction of the station to know the amount of drift angle the plane must take. When flying along a regular beam, any station on the right or left may be tuned in and the pointer will show how far along the beam the plane has progressed.

### Two-Mile Conveyor Belt Hauls Tons of Gravel to Dam

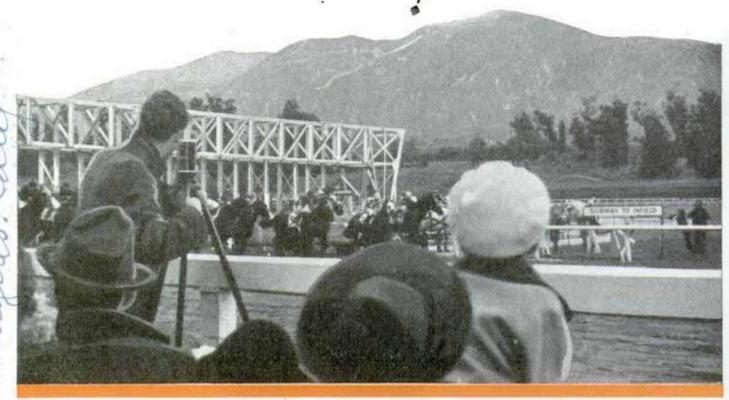


Unrolling two-mile belt used to haul sand and gravel at Grand Coulee dam

Two miles of belting does a job that would require a tremendous fleet of trucks in hauling material to the Grand Coulee dam. Mounted on rollerbearing rollers, this endless conveyor is capable of carrying 30,000 tons of sand and gravel a day to the site of construction. The belt itself weighs eighty tons.

There were 185,000 forest fires in the United States in 1937—one every three minutes, but eighteen per cent fewer than in 1936. 10 6

# "THEY'RE OFF/"to NEW



THE parade to the post is an exciting time for the thoroughbreds and they grow even more tense as they arrive at the starting gate. The starter, on a raised platform by the inner rail, must exercise the patience of Job and the coolness of a general as he directs assistants and jockeys attempting to line up the jittery animals.

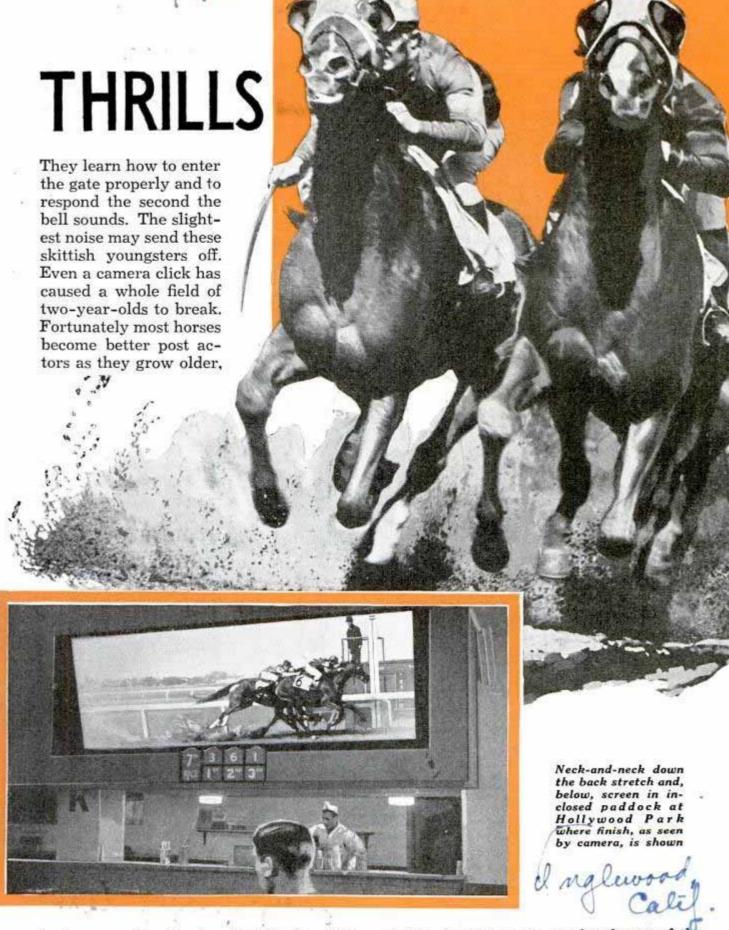
Just as the task seems finished, a nervous horse rears. Seeing its wild actions, and the starter has his work to do over. But at last they are all lined up as evenly as a platoon of soldiers. Then the starter presses the button which sounds the bell on the starting gate and the shout, "They're off!" echoes in thousands of throats.

Two-year-olds are the hardest to handle at the post. Before they make their first start, they go through much schooling.



Bunched at the turn and, above, track movie photographer recording start of race at Santa Anita.

Rough riding is revealed by the movies taken at various points around the track

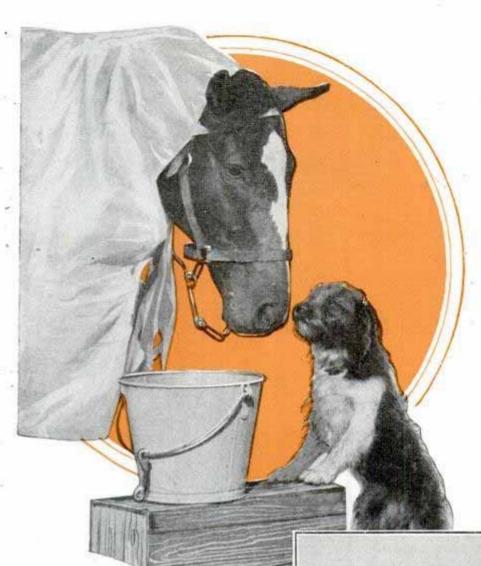


but some who develop bad traits often grow worse.

The start is an exciting time for the jockeys too. Each tries to have his mount break ahead of the field at the bell. A horse reared so abruptly at a track recently that he hung his jockey on the starting gate. As he flew off his mount, the jockey's

clothes caught on an overhead part of the gate. He was helped down, not much hurt.

For years Johnny Adams, champion United States jockey for 1937, put on his "crash helmet" before leaving the tack room, just as all jockeys are required to do. The helmets are little black skull caps constructed of an Australian fiber. They are



saddled at close range. The paddock is soundproof and has an artificial daylight lighting system so the horses will not be bewildered by the sunlight. The ground in the paddock and in tunnels, to and from it, is covered with redwood bark.

The grandstand and clubhouse follows the latest modernistic architecture. It is painted turquoise which has been found to cut off much glare of the California sun. Glass windows in the back of the stands and glass partitions on the sides make it draft free.

Hollywood Park has a sunken infield, in which there are three lakes, each at a different level, and two man-made waterfalls. Swans, ducks, and geese swim on the

worn under their silk caps. Johnny often wondered of what value it was to him. At the last Del Mar meeting he was on a horse that had never been started before. As it left the post it bolted for the rail. When the horse hit the rail Adams was knocked from the saddle. His foot caught in the stirrup and he was dragged for several yards before he fell to the turf. At the hospital they found the little black helmet dented and cracked by the horse's hoofs, but it had saved his skull.

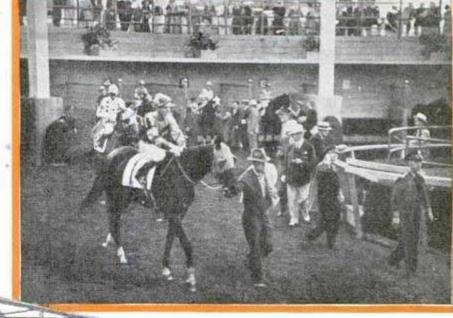
Each new race track tries to bring more comfort with racing thrills. Latest of the million-dollar racing projects is Hollywood Park at Inglewood, Calif. Its most unique feature is an inclosed paddock built like an amphitheater at one end of the huge grandstand, which seats over 12,000 people. Here 3,000 fans may view the horses being

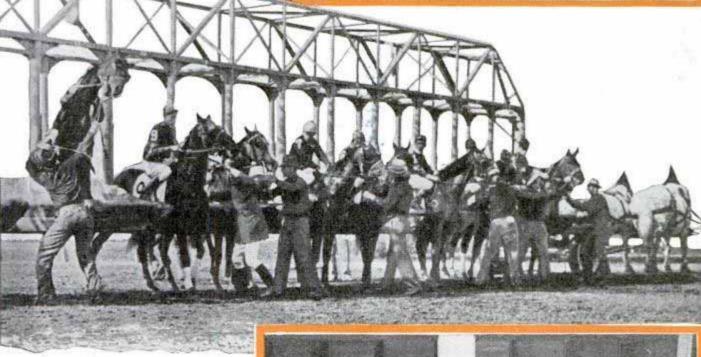
The finish of a close race and, above, a dog which serves as a companion for one of the thoroughbreds

lakes and a girl in Dutch costume keeps an eye on them to see that they don't wander out on the track.

The tote board in the infield has been sunken so it doesn't affect the view of fans in the lower grandstand. The stewards' stand is on the roof and the jockeys weigh in after the races in an underground, glassinclosed booth at the finish line. Thus there is nothing to obstruct the view of the finish from any point in the stands. Three elevators in the grandstand and clubhouse carry people to the higher tiers.

From inner rail patrol judge boxes, it is easy to watch what goes on along the course. The large race tracks have patrol judges stationed about every sixth of a mile around the





course. It is their duty to watch the horses as they go by their portion of track. They have telephones to notify the stewards if they observe anything improper. The new patrol judges' boxes are mounted on single steel supports sixteen feet above the track. The judge sits on a revolving seat, and is directly over the inner rail as he watches the race through binoculars.

Years ago horsemen (Continued to page 146A)



Top, horses leaving the inclosed paddock at Hollywood Park. Center, action at the post. Note horse rearing. Bottom, acquainting two horses with the inclosed paddock before crowd arrives

sucked. If these samples contain mercury vapor, some of the blue and ultraviolet light is absorbed, resulting in a slight shadow that is visible to the photoelectric tube at the end of the tunnel. As little as one part of mercury vapor to one billion parts of air can be detected by this means. The photoelectric tube then turns on a red light, warning of the presence of the poison fumes.

### Bookshelves Form Building Frame and Save Space

Bookshelves in the Oregon state library at Salem will not only be built like a skyscraper, they will be part of one. Steel cases to accommodate 450,000 volumes form part of the frame of the library structure itself, thus saving not only space but also material and construction costs.

# Rubber Disks Set in Asphalt for Non-Skid Traffic Marks

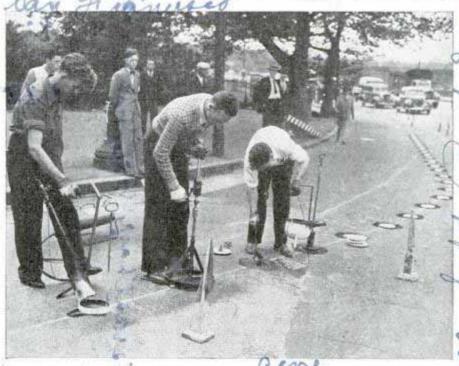


Photo shows successive stages of heating asphalt, preparing recess, lining it with hot tar and then laying non-skid traffic markers in place

Non-skid traffic markers recessed into the pavement are being tested for durability in Philadelphia. They are made of a hard-wearing rubber composition, of high visibility and skidproof qualities under adverse conditions. In laying them, the pavement asphalt is first heated with a blowtorch, then scraped out and the hole is lined with hot tar to seal the marker disk in place.

### "Wet Wash" Street Sweeper Maneuvers in Tight Places

Teaming a steel brush revolving horizontally with a tough fiber brush revolving vertically, a street cleaner that washes as it sweeps will pick up anything from dust to glass, scrap iron and bricks. A single front wheel makes it highly maneuverable, in order to sweep close behind and around parked cars and to clean the curb on nar-

row streets and sharp curves. It can sweep a "figure eight" on a thirty-six foot pavement. The small horizontal brush at the front sweeps refuse away from the curb to be picked up by the large vertical brush and tossed into a cubic-yard receptacle. The machine has a 140-gallon water tank and sprinkles the entire sixty-six-inch swath, softening encrusted dirt.

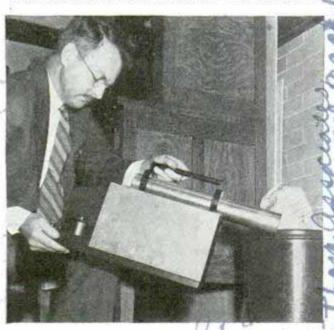


Sweeping a "figure eight" on a thirty-six foot pavement. A sprinkler and horizontal and vertical brushes do a thorough job of street cleaning

tustin - Western

machiner

### Detector Finds Lost Radium at Hundred-Foot Distance



The highly sensitive radium detector goes hunting for a lost bit of the mineral in a wastebasket

Hunting for lost radium is no longer like the proverbial search for a needle in a hay-stack. So sensitive is a radium detector just invented that it will react to the presence of a bit of radium weighing only 1/29,000 of an ounce, at a distance of 100 feet. The inventor is Dr. L. F. Curtiss of the U. S. Bureau of Standards, shown demonstrating the device in the picture above.

### "Radiator" Pipe Cools Smoke and Traps Irritating Tars

For a cool, non-irritating smoke, a "radiator" pipe with briar bowl and duralumin tubes is on the market. Scientifically designed, it has a radiator chamber of sufficient volume to hold the smoke and cool it between puffs, letting the objectionable heavy oils, tars and water vapor condense without reaching the smoker's throat. A



Irritating vapors are cooled and condensed in large duralumin chamber of pipe without reaching throat

valve prevents these condensed liquids from returning to the bowl. The pipe is readily demountable for cleaning, and its parts are interchangeable and can be replaced if damaged.

### Pelican Ash Tray Snaps Its Bill to Swallow Burning Cigarette

Forgotten cigarettes left burning
on the bill of a
"pelican" ash receiver are swallowed automatically when the
heat flips the bird's
mouth shut. A



mouth shut. A thermostatic metal coil does the trick. Placed on the bill, a cigarette will continue to burn until its heat causes the coil to unwind, raising the bill and flipping the cigarette inside the bird. Ashes may be emptied from the base.

### Reaper Harvests Sugar Cane at Twenty Tons per Hour



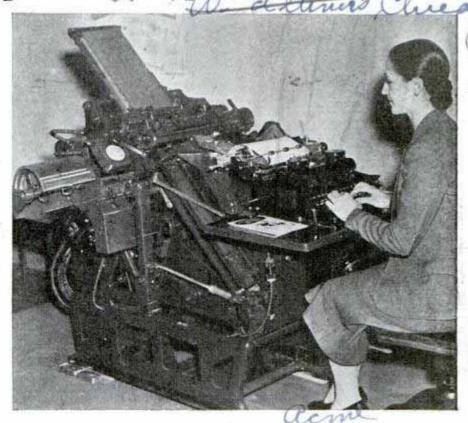
Mechanical reaper cutting sugar cane twice as high as a man. It does work of fifty machete wielders

Wading through a forest of sugar cane twelve feet high, a mechanical reaper proved it could top, strip and bunch the stalks at a rate of one ton every three minutes. The sugar-cane harvest has always been a hand operation, the field workers swinging machetes much as they did when Louisiana reaped its first cane crop back in 1795. The mechanical harvester can equal the work of fifty field hands.

### Setting Up Type with a Typewriter Keyboard

One of the latest short cuts for the business office is a type-casting machine operated by a conventional typewriter keyboard. It was introduced at a recent exhibition of business machines, when a stenographer demonstrated that anyone who is familiar with the operation of a standard typewriter keyboard can cast printing type.

Here is a new way of cutting corners. Instead of typing copy and then turning it over to type-caster for second operation, the stenographer herself sets type with casting machine using a typewriter keyboard



### Electric Heart Pumps Blood through Mechanical Lung

Human life may be saved some day by diverting the blood stream through artificial lungs and heart outside the body when the natural organs are damaged. Such a mechanism already has been tested in a laboratory, and proved capable of sustaining life in animals. A tube is inserted in the animal's vein and blood is sucked out by an electric pump. As the blood

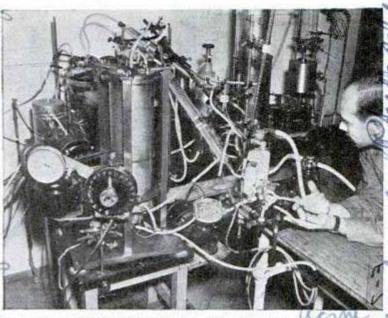
travels to the mechanical lung, it is kept warm by water circulating in a glass tube surrounding the blood-carrying tube. The "lung" is a chromium-plated steel cylinder, rotating at several hundred revolutions per minute. The spinning spreads the blood in a thin film on the inside wall of the cylinder so that it can readily absorb oxygen flowing through the chamber. The

1200

blood thus purified by oxygen is then pumped back into the animal.

### Pink and Blue Potatoes Taste Just the Same

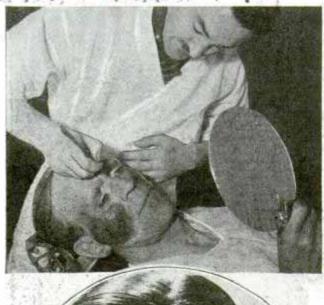
It may not be long before the corner grocery sells you potatoes to match the table decorations or the wallpaper. Potatoes with "color appeal"—pink potatoes, blue potatoes, reds, yellows, russets, whites; whites with blue eyes or red eyes, and potatoes that are purple all the way through, have been developed. Forty different varieties, all edible and tasty, have been exhibited at the Pennsylvania state department of agriculture.



Cylinder at left is artificial lung. Slanting glass tube in center holds warm water to keep blood at proper temperature

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# How Faces Are Made to Order for the Movies





Faces are made to order for the movies with the aid of a plastic substance known as No. 6, the invention of Jack Dawn, makeup artist. With this material, an actor's features can be revamped to conform with those of a known character or a copy of a historical face can be molded and superimposed on the actor's face. While wearing these thin, gelatine-like masks, a player can smile, yawn, laugh or cry and the plastic will react as though it were a part of his own skin. Being porous, the material absorbs perspiration and can be applied or removed without harming the skin. Its use also permits the actor to be made up in an unusual way without physical discomfort. If he is to be depicted with a deep scar on the forehead, No. 6 provides one quickly, whereas the old method called for the skin of the temples to be pinched together and held by drying collodion. For "Marie Antoinette," Dawn transformed Robert Morley into such a perfect likeness of the original Louis XVI that it was possible to use an actual portrait of the king in one sequence where the actor appeared beside the picture. Dawn changed a veteran character actor into twentyyear-old Franz Josef for "The Great Waltz," then aged him into the seventies.





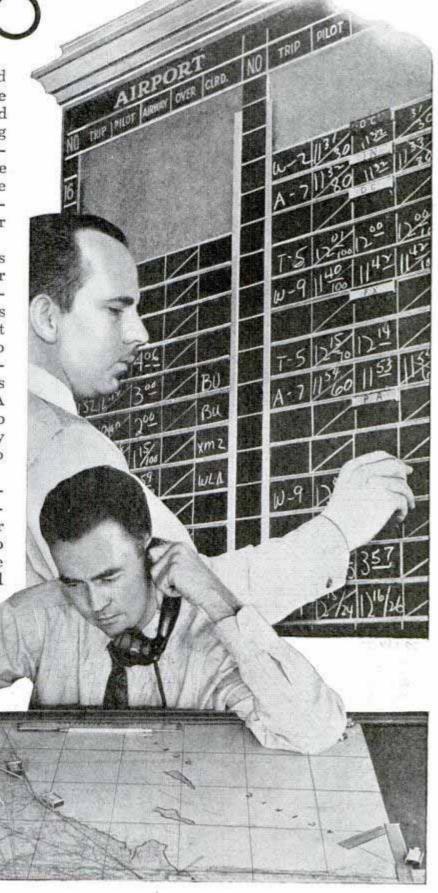
Top, Jack Dawn making up Boris Karloff for "War Lord." Circle, Karloff ready for camera. Bottom, photos showing transition of John Barrymore into tramplike character for "Bulldog Drummond Comes Back"

The LATEST in AVIATION
RADIO

IT WAS a stormy night and the traffic dispatcher in the tower above the airport checked his maps twice before picking up the telephone that connected him simultaneously with the different air lines using the field. Three passenger transports were due in shortly for landings.

"United, your Trip 18 is cleared to the Burbank tower for standard instrument approach. TWA, your Trip 5 is cleared to Newhall. Cross at 7,000 feet. You will be No. 2 to land. Expect approach clearance at 8:11. American Trip 3 is cleared to the Fontana-KBLA intersection on top. No. 3 to land. Traffic, eastbound Army A-17 cruising at 5,000 on top to March field.

A few seconds later radio operators of the air lines were repeating the instructions to their oncoming pilots. A year or so ago the messages might have had to be repeated several



Top, schedule board in airways traffic-control office by which progress of planes is kept up to date.

Bottom, airways dispatcher at work, with map in front of him

Public delations left. Comerci



to do so many jobs we are going to load still more work on its shoulders."

So rapid is the advancement that radio systems that were brand new last year are partly obsolete today. The modernization program goes on continuously. Similar progress is being made in bringing up to date such radio aids as the Department of Commerce radio beam stations. Some of these radio ranges are being relocated so that one of the beams points straight down the landing runway of an adjacent airport. All

times, the operators' voices rising and falling through heavy static, but today the pilots can hear the messages as easily as if they were connected by telephone.

Aviation radio is making tremendous strides. Scores of improvements to transmitters and receivers have increased range and reliability and have made garbled, distorted voices practically a thing of the past. Static is being controlled much better than before. Radio's new status permits "on schedule" flying through all sorts of weather and enables dispatchers to control the planes with the ease of chess players moving their men. Every kind of situation is handled safely. If three or four airplanes are stacked up in the clouds above an airport at the same time, all wanting to land, the dispatcher holds all except the lowest one in the air, flying different courses on the adjacent radio range and at 1,000-foot differences in altitude until the lowest plane has landed. Then, one at a time, he drops each plane down another 1,000 feet and clears the lowest for its approach. Airways are divided into blocks, and clearances to proceed from block to block, depending upon the weather conditions ahead, are radioed the pilots in flight.

"Radio today is aviation's most versatile handy man," states James Flynn, superintendent of communications for American Air Lines. "Now that we have trained it



Top, field dispatcher telephoning air-line operations office. Bottom, various kinds of tubes used in airways radio communication

the stations are being improved to eliminate having to switch off the guiding signals while the periodic weather broadcasts are made. The cones of silence above the stations, used by pilots as a way of keeping track of their progress along an airway, are being changed from negative to positive signposts by using small transmitters that radiate identifying signals vertically above the stations.

Useful as the radio beams are, they are sometimes confusing to pilots. Blind spots in which the beams fade out, wandering beams that bend one direction on one day and another the next, and split beams and other quirks have kept pilots from depending on them too completely. The lo-

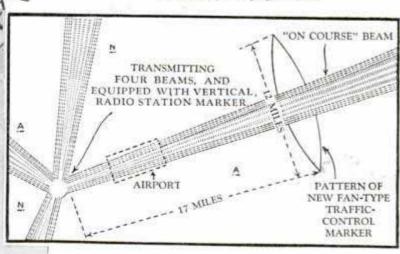
cation of a station seems to have an influence upon its reliability and some of the stations are being moved to new locations. For precise navigation inside small areas "localizer" beam stations are being installed, operating on wavelengths different from the main airways beams. Eventually, the present beams are to be replaced by ultra high-frequency beams that will be even more reliable. In fact, the whole trend in aviation radio is toward short waves since these insure more reliable communication for every purpose.

The first step in this short-wave program is the installation of twenty-two fan-type radio markers along the airways this winter. These marker beacons throw up vertical curtains or fans of signals across an airway, giving a pilot a positive check on his position. They will be used for traffic control, as warnings of the proximity of high ground, and as "let down" markers in making blind ap-



proaches. The radio markers operate on seventy-five megacycles and their pattern at 3,000 feet in the air is three miles wide and twelve miles long. The antenna of the marker beacon consists of horizontal rods

(Continued to page 124A)



Top, another view of dispatcher, showing battery of loudspeakers, each of which is connected to phone system. Left, "squirrel cage" type of transmission antenna. Right, diagram of new fan-type radio marker used on the airways

### Tree Trimmer Wears Stilts Made of Aluminum Tubing



Orchard worker speeds his work by walking on aluminum stilts which are adjustable to various heights

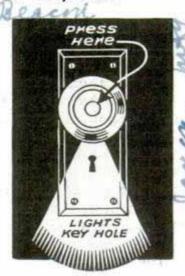
Stilts are being used by orchard workers instead of ladders, for greater safety and speed in getting around. The stilts are made of adjustable tubes of aluminum alloy, one tube sliding inside the other. They can be locked in any stage, increasing the wearer's position above the ground from thirty-one and one-half inches to sixty-eight and one-half inches. The cast aluminum footplates are also adjustable for different sized shoes. Each stilt weighs nine pounds. A carrier for pruning shears and other tools is provided on one stilt.

### Colored Mirrors Stud Highway to Show Type of Road Ahead

Red, white and amber reflectors to mark the center line of the highway and indicate, by the color, the hazards of the road ahead are proposed by a Texas inventor. The buttons would reflect headlights and would be visible 1,000 feet ahead at night. If the road is straight and safe, white reflectors would tell the driver so. Amber reflectors would indicate a curve or hill, and red markers would warn of a crossroad or railway. Markers being tested in Texas cities are made of malleable iron finished with porcelain enamel, virtually indestructible, the reflectors being set in the housing to protect them from traffic.

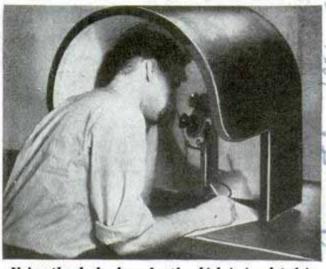
### Electric Light in Doorknob Illuminates Keyhole

To light up the keyhole at night, an electric door-knob can be installed in place of the old knob without any wiring. A tiny bulb beneath the knob floods the keyhole with light at your finger touch; entirely self-contained, it is operated by a flashlight battery.



### Portable Desk Phone Booth Handy in Noisy Office

Designed for use in noisy offices, a portable soundproof telephone booth is installed by merely placing it upon a desk or table. The booth is twenty-two inches wide, twenty-four inches high and nineteen inches deep, so shaped that users may write as they use the phone. Although it



Using the desk phone booth which is insulated to absorb noises in office

Ourgess

has no door, the booth absorbs virtually all interfering outside noise. It is lined with a "quieting sheet" material that absorbs instead of excluding the noise, thus creating a zone of silence around the telephone. The quieting sheet consists of an outer layer of perforated metal plate, behind which is a thick, soft sound-absorbing blanket. Similar sheets are being used on engine mufflers, air ducts, airplane cabins and other places where noise is a problem.

### Compressed Air Opens Doors of Homemade Tool Chest

From scrap lumber and metal, Lyman Loetscher of Livingston, Mont., has built a tool kit whose compartments open, close and lock by compressed air. It is a bird'seye maple chest large enough for 1,600 tools, compact enough to be portable, and consisting of three rotating trays, four drawers and two special compartments. One lever opens the lid, unlocking the lower doors and drawers. Another lever lifts the trays which then are hand-rotated to select tools. A third lever cuts off the air. The chest is connected to a compressedair nozzle, a one-inch cylinder eighteen inches long being sufficient to raise the lid. It requires only thirty pounds of air.

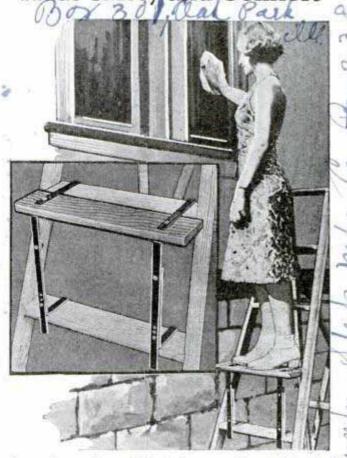
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Compressed air, controlled by three levers, opens lid and drawers of this maple tool chest

Adjustable Step for Ladder Adds Safety and Comfort



Inset shows that width of the step is doubled by attaching the adjustable step, which fits any ladder

Work on a stepladder can be made safer and more comfortable at the same time by installing an adjustable step which fits any ladder. It makes the platform wider, and is adjustable either for higher riser or for wider step. Rigidly built, it will support a 250-pound man easily.

### Portable Electric-Oven Unit Will Roast, Bake or Broil

Big enough for the family dinner, a portable electric oven brings the a dvantages of electric cooking to the small home. It weighs thirty-five pounds and has a cooking area of 1,415 cubic inches.



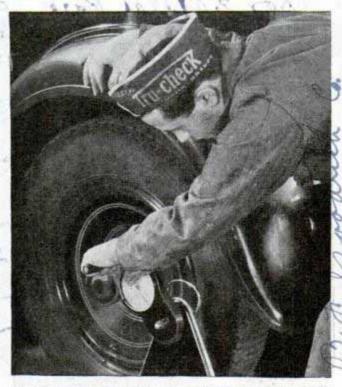
For roasting, baking or cooking, the oven unit is placed in the bottom of the oven; for broiling, it is placed in the top.

Landers, Francis Ca

POPULAR MECHANICS

Portable Car Brake Tester and lower the temption point. Too, the

## Helps Equalize Wheels



Taking a reading of the braking power of one automobile wheel with the portable tester

Braking power on each wheel of the automobile can be measured individually by a portable tester just introduced. Accurate and easy to operate and read, it is mounted on rubber-tired wheels and weighs only forty pounds. By testing each wheel separately, it helps to equalize opposite wheels and distribute braking action properly between front and rear wheels.

### Bags of Rock Dust Guard Mine from Coal-Dust Explosions

×1150

Clouds of inert rock dust form an effective way of preventing and limiting coalmine dust explosions, the U.S. Bureau of Mines has found. Coal miners soon may see paper bags on little platforms near the ceilings of mines, if the new method is widely adopted. The bags contain limestone treated so that it does not absorb water. When the first shock wave of an explosion sweeps down a coal mine and blows coal dust with it, the vibration shakes the bags off their platform. A wire rips open the bags and the rock dust spreads to form a barrier that has two functions. If it falls into coal dust so heated that it is about to explode, the rock dust will absorb the heat

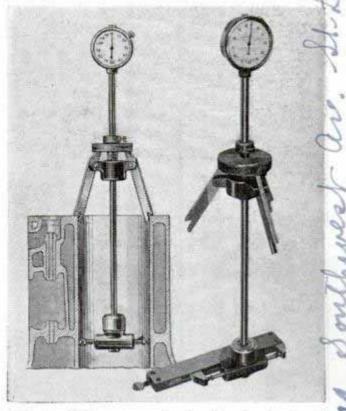
and lower the temperature below the ignition point. Too, the presence of the rock powder in the air helps to dilute the coal dust and makes the explosion less severe.

### Rubber Lines for Tennis Court Let Concrete Expand

Rubber expansion strips such as are laid in concrete pavement joints are now being used to line tennis courts. The white rubber strip is permanent, making it unnecessary to renew paint, lime or tape. At the same time the rubber joint protects the surface of the court, letting the concrete expand and contract without cracking.

### Cylinder Gauge Reads Directly on a Dial Indicator

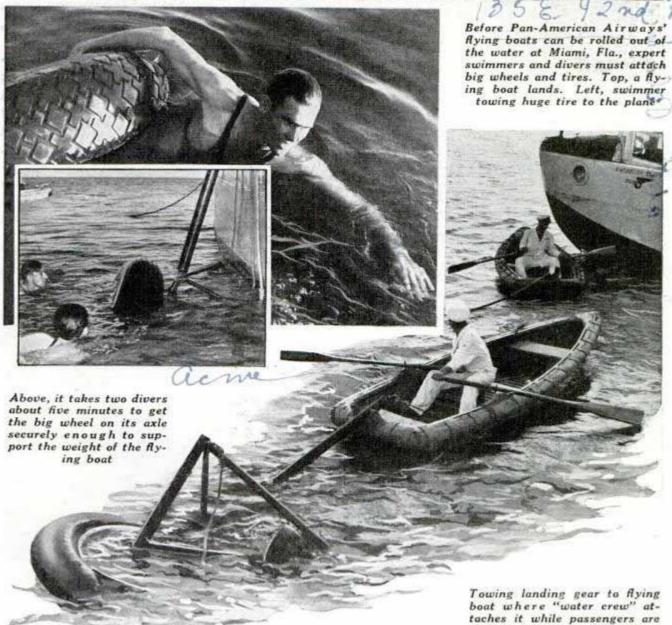
Cylinder size, taper and out-of-roundness can be read directly with micrometer accuracy on a gauge that has a dial indicator. It has a tripod centering device and can be used to measure over the entire length and circumference of the cylinder, showing up any pockets, distortion or wear at any part of the wall. The dial can be read at a distance easily. There is a master gauge for setting the dial to standard cylinder size.



Tripod cylinder gauge and a drawing showing how it takes inside dimensions of cylinder wall

### Expert Divers Put Big Wheels on Flying Boats





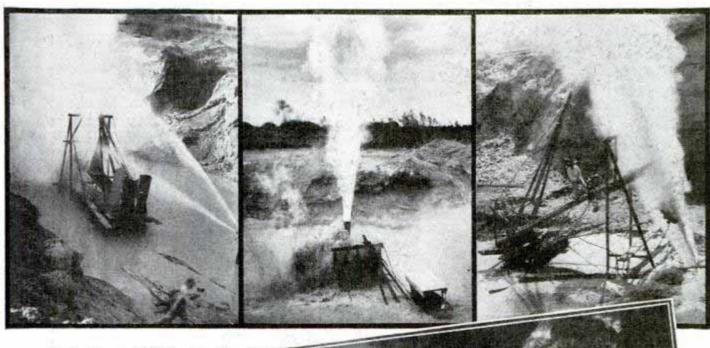
discharged. Planes are taken from the water for overhauling ne allen Teras



Top, fire fighters inspect flaming oil well from behind tin shields. Bottom, left, dredge being sprayed with water as it digs away dirt from buried casing. Right, casing being pulled into position with cables. Note size of the crater. In this photo the fire has been extinguished, but stream of gas and oil rushing from casing is visible

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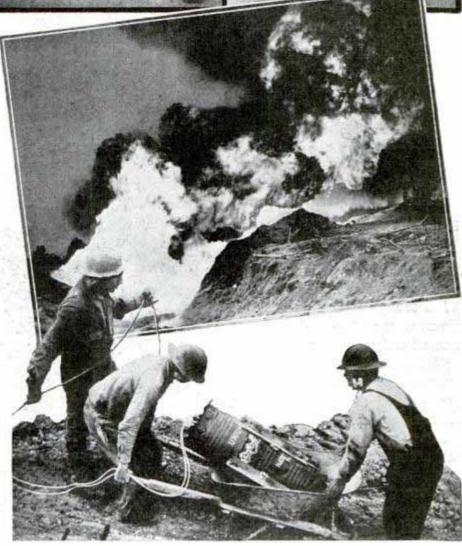
## WILD WELLS



that shoots 100 feet high. If they have been lucky the men will stop running a quarter-mile away where the heat can be endured. If they have not been lucky one or two or three of them will be lying back in the red-hot wreckage, caught by the rush of gas or hurled to death by the explosion.

The men will stand looking at the inferno, watching huge chunks of earth going up with the flame. "She's beginning to crater," they'll say, and move still farther off as rocks and earth begin thudding down around them. The derrick, white hot, begins to sag, then disappears without adding a sound to the bellow of escaping gas.

Night comes, but not darkness. For fifteen miles around cherry-red light flickers from this torch. Next morning you see nothing but flame leaping into the sky from



Top, left, Patton's capping machine in crater with manifold enveloped by flames. Center, men in tin-shielded boat on boiling lake. Right, dropping swedge into casing. Below, fire breaks out in new spot as swedge restricts flow in casing. Bottom, wheeling nitroglycerine into crater





their short exciting lives but put out such fires.

If there is a possibility that the fire can be extinguished and the well brought under control, they will come with heavy manifolds, high-pressure pumps, dredges, asbestos suits, boxes of nitroglycerine jelly and special well-capping equipment, and set about their task so calmly that you would never guess the chances are two to one some of them will be badly hurt or burned or blown to bits before the job is done.

Not long ago fire fighters were working on a wild well in south Texas. The morning after the well caught fire it was a fortyfoot crater. Flame geysered

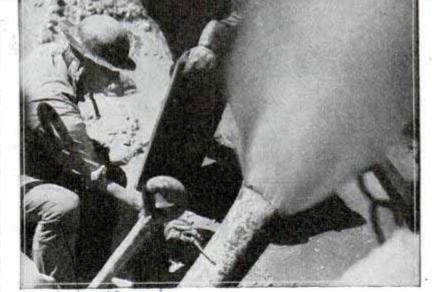
Top, nitroglycerine in place beside flaming well. Center, exploding the charge that snuffed out the fire. Bottom, measuring pipe with calipers preparatory to cutting it off. Noise here is terrific. This is another step toward capping well after fire has been extinguished

a crater city blocks across with a clean rim that shimmers under the sun because heat has turned the sand to glass.

A high-pressure well has gone wild. Can the owner do anything but cross off as a loss the thousands of dollars invested in it? Perhaps if the casing has given way or the crater is more than forty or fifty feet deep nothing can be done, and it will burn on for weeks or months or years until stones and debris shooting up the hole gradually wedge fast and the decreasing

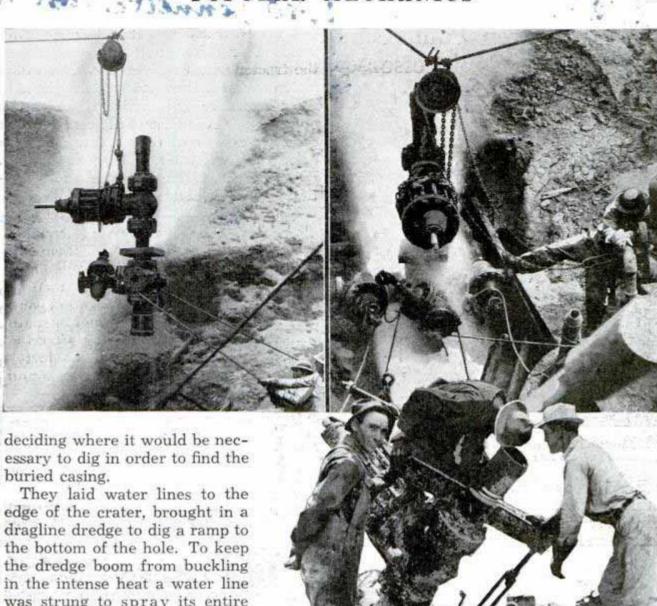
gas pressure is not strong enough to dislodge them. Or it may be possible to drill another well to tap the oil-bearing sand within a few feet of the bottom of the wild well and pump in mud or cement that will seal it.

But there is another way of saving a wild burning well if the casing is still intact. The owner calls in a company of wild-well fire fighters, men who do nothing during



three hundred feet into the sky from a stream of gas and oil.

The H. L. Patton Corp., of Houston, arrived with equipment two days after the blow-out. The fire fighters built tin shields with wooden hand-grips and walked up to the crater rim pushing the shields before them against heat that charred the wooden handles. They put on asbestos suits and stalked about at the bottom of the hole



They laid water lines to the edge of the crater, brought in a dragline dredge to dig a ramp to the bottom of the hole. To keep the dredge boom from buckling in the intense heat a water line was strung to spray its entire length. Shields were attached to the dredge so that its operators would not be roasted alive, and men behind other shields on the crater rim directed streams of water against the machine's sizzling exterior.

After weeks of digging, the casing was uncovered in the bottom of the crater, lying in horizontal position spewing its seven-inch stream of gas. Asbestos-clad men went into the hole with cables, fastened them to the big pipe and with heavy block and tackle it was pulled upright.

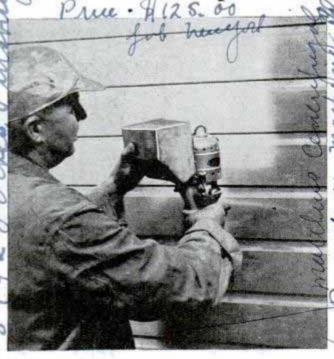
For capping wild wells, H. L. Patton depends largely upon a capping manifold that is his own invention. It consists of a thirteen-inch, twenty-five-foot stack or manifold held in vertical po
(Continued to page 122A)



Top, left and right, working manifold up to casing head. Center, looking into manifold after gas flow has been diverted. Bottom, the wild well after being tamed

POPULAR MECHANICS

# Needs No Compressor



Painting wall of house with electric paint gun which covers surface five times faster than paintbrush

Five times as fast as an ordinary paintbrush, an electric paint gun just introduced can cover 1,500 square feet of finished surface in an hour. It requires no compressoror other equipment, being entirely selfcontained and plugs into any 110-volt line.

#### Concrete Disks for Tractor Give More Traction

When pulling heavy loads with rubbertired tractors, farmers in the wheat-growing areas use concrete disks on the wheels

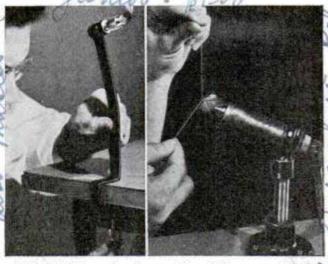


Closeup of tractor wheel shows large concrete disk used to give more traction

to increase traction. The disks are cast in molds of sheet iron to fit inside the rims of the tractor wheels. Holes for bolts which fasten to the spokes and hold the disks in place are made by inserting short lengths of gas pipe at the time of the casting. The concrete disks cost only a few dollars a pair. They weigh about 350 pounds each. Detached easily, they are blocked in position for use when needed again.

#### Quick Action Fly-Tying Vise Handy for Fishermen

Precision built from fine tool steel, two fly-tying vises for the fisherman are on the market. The larger, designed for the veteran angler or the professional, has lightning fast action. A flick of the hand closes or opens it and it holds firmly. The vise is



Left, fly-tying vise for amateur fisherman. Right, model for veteran angler

instantly adjustable for the smallest or the largest trout and bass fly hooks. The device swivels and is adjustable for height. The smaller model is designed for the amateur desiring to tie his own flies. It is lightweight, but made for long wear.

#### Automatic Parachute Opens Self without Pull of Ripcord

Any novice can "bail out" of an airplane with an automatic parachute, for it opens itself without waiting for the nervous jumper to pull the ripcord. A pocket on the pack catches the airstream and opens the 'chute. The jumper can, however, pull the ripcord in the usual way if he wishes. Twenty-four feet in diameter—two feet

smaller than the conventional silk bagthe new parachute is easily maneuvered to one side or another by pulling on a steering shroud attached to the flap on the side toward which he wishes to glide.

Orleans La

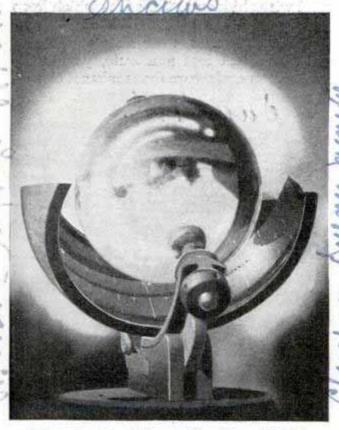
#### Spoon for Weighing Chemicals Has Scale on Its Handleshork



Wehemicals up to ten grams can be weighed in a spoon designed for the photographer's laboratory or the chemical shop. The spoon is suspended from achain, and there isa counterbalance in its handle.

#### Sun "Punches Clock" by Burning Spot on Time Chart

Making a permanent record of its movements, the sun punches a time clock at botanical gardens in Missouri. A round glass ball magnifies a beam of the sunlight, which burns spots on a nuled time chart.



When the glass ball magnifies the sun's rays, a spot is burned on paper chart

### Viewer Cuts Notch in Film to Mark It for Enlarging



Examining a strip of film with viewer which has notching device to mark negatives for enlarging

Equipped with a semi-circular notching device to mark negatives chosen for endarging, a film viewer just introduced provides an easy method of inspecting an entire strip of thirty-five millimeter pictures. The roll of film slides through the viewer frame, which is backed by a removable milk-glass plate for even illumination. It has an eyepiece and a convenient handle.

#### Poles Receive More Sunlight Than the Equator

Strange as it may seem, there is more sunlight at the poles than at the equator. Refraction of the sun's rays by the earth's atmosphere is the explanation. Because these rays are bent as they reach the earth, the sun is actually visible at the poles when it is below the horizon, and scientists figure that refraction adds 105 hours of sunshine at the top and bottom of the earth and only adds forty hours at the equator giving the poles sixty-five more hours of sun in a year.

The largest store of radium held in any one place in the world is the nine and onehalf grams at Bellevue hospital, New York.

## Camera "Sees" High Power in Insulator Test



Insulators under test look like this when high voltage is turned on

When insulators were tested recently by the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing company, the camera caught a picture of 232,000 volts of electricity. So intense was the light of each cycle of current that it reversed the process on the photographer's negatives, burning white lines of light where they normally would appear black. The insulators withstood the high voltage, showing that they would be satisfactory as power-line protectors.

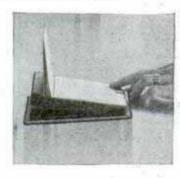
#### Ship Speed Raised by Blisters on Each Side of Hull

Bulbous blisters, one on each side of the hull, have been developed as a means of reducing vibration and increasing speed of ships. The blisters are located down by the keel in this new type of stern, which achieves its efficiency by creating two "tunnels" that direct the flow of water to the propellers. This type stern is said to be capable of increasing speed by as much as one knot without altering the power plant. Vibration from the propeller is re-

duced because of the greater stiffness of the bulbous construction as compared with the more conventional overhanging and cruiser sterns. The new stern is being embodied in ships planned by Vladimir Yourkevitch, designer of the "Normandie."

#### Pushbutton Index Opens to Page at Touch of a Finger

Press down on a "button" of the latest type index and its pages fly open to the letter indicated on the button touched. The alphabet button is printed on cardboard. The



index is handy for keeping telephone numbers and addresses on the desk top.

#### Inexpensive Venetian Blinds of Washable Cellulose

Venetian blinds are now being made of washable cellulose, rolled paper-thin to make them translucent. The slats are flexible yet do not warp, for there are spring-steel wires hidden in the edges which keep the slats straight and level. High-speed machinery turns out the slats at the rate of sixty lineal feet a minute, permitting low-cost manufacture that makes it cheaper to replace than to repaint them.



Flexible slats of these washable cellulose Venetian blinds are kept straight by steel wires

louton bolling



## ANTENNA in Receiver Cabinet

NO EXTERNAL antenna or ground leads need be used with this console receiver recently developed by the engineers of General Electric Co. A built-in shielded loop antenna is employed for the reception of local high-fidelity programs. The set may be moved about a room or home at will and plugged into a socket in the same manner as a floor lamp.

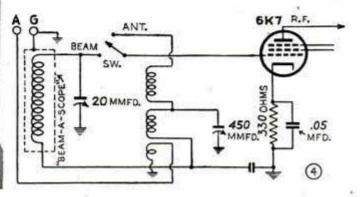
The loop is completely inclosed in a special shield of the Faraday type; this possesses the properties of excluding electrostatic fields,



permitting only electromagnetic fields to pass. Since most interference is of electrostatic nature it is greatly reduced. A large demonstration model of the loop is shown in photo Fig. 1; the receiv-

er loop assembly appears in Fig. 2 and the complete receiver installation is shown in Fig. 3. The standard loop unit is about 12 in. wide by 24 in. long.

Ordinary antenna reception may be obtained by merely throwing the switch indicated in diagram Fig. 4.



## DIL ECONOMY NINE

By F. M. Lund

ALCOHOLD DELL

IN BUILDING the 9-tube superheterodyne receiver to be described, several objectives were kept in view. It had to be simple, inexpensive, easy to construct and adjust, yet it must have the best possible sensitivity and selectivity consistent with fine tone quality. Although designed for the broadcast band only, nothing has been overlooked in order to obtain maximum performance on this band.

A full-size chassis base avoids crowding of parts and simplifies construction. Either metal or glass-bulb octal-base tubes may be used in the 8-prong tube sockets. If metal tubes are employed, the tube shields are, of course, not required. Other outstanding features include, tuning eye, push-pull output, no audio transformers, no chokes, phase inverter, 10-watt output, one microvolt sensitivity and even channel selectivity; also full automatic volume control, variable tone control and phonograph pick-up jacks which enable the user to play records through the audio system and use the radio vol-

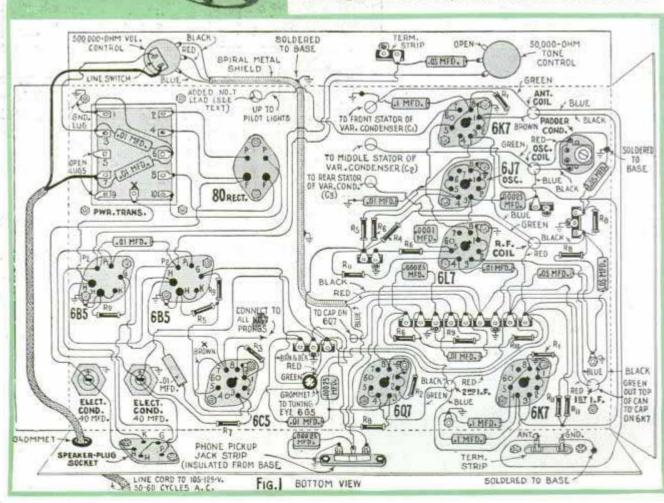


FIG.I-A

ANT

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## BROADCAST RECEIVER

ume control. Type-6B5 poweramplifier tubes in push-pull insure unusually fine tone quality if a good 8-in. dynamic speaker is

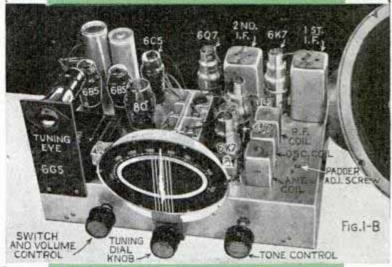
employed.

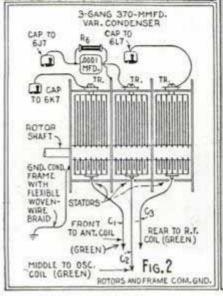
A simplified wiring diagram appears in Fig. 1, and the 3-gang variable condenser connections are all clearly shown in Fig. 2. This ganged variable condenser should be mounted on soft rubber washers, the nuts on the mounting screws being left loose so that the unit is cushioned on the base. A strip of flexible woven-wire braid is used to make the ground connection to the metal base.

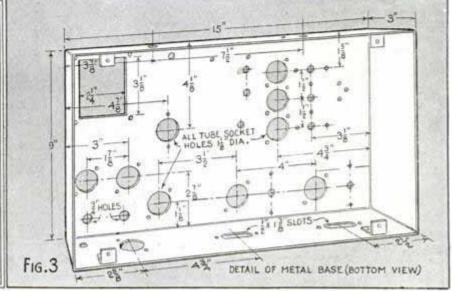
Complete base details are given in Fig. 3. This sheet metal should be of fairly heavy-gauge steel or similar metal that can be soldered easily. The schematic circuit diagram, Fig. 4, includes wiring details for the tuning-eye socket which is a standard Amphenol 5-wire assembly for a type 6G5 tube, and is altered to 4 leads. It may be mounted temporarily on a strip of Bakelite screwed to the chassis base as shown in photos Figs. 1-A and 1-B; photo Fig. 1-C is a bottom view of the completed set. Although the materials used

(Continued to page 138A)

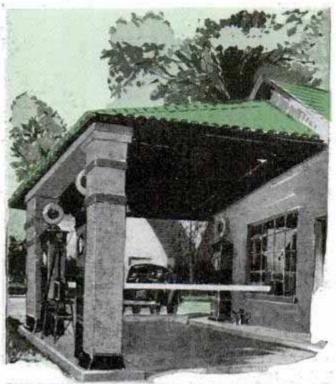


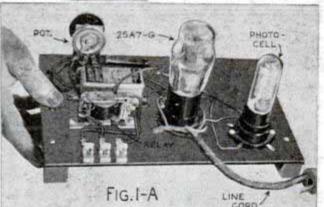


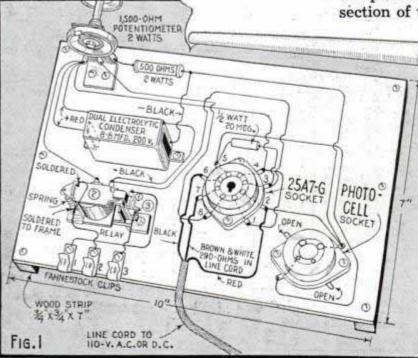




### How to Build an Inexpensive Photocell Relay







#### By M. N. Beitman

THIS simplified 110-volt a.c.-d.c. photocell unit will permit efficient control of lights, alarm bells, counters or other electrical equipment by means of changes in light intensity. In other words, this photocell "magic box" may be made to switch "on" or "off" associated electrical equipment with either an increase or decrease of light, handling loads up to 3 amps.

The photocell may be exposed directly to light, or it may be shielded and the control light source directed in a beam through a lens in the manner illustrated in the sketch at upper left. The car coming in to the gas station interrupts the light beam and the photocell relay closes an electric bell circuit to summon the attendant.

All parts are mounted on a 1/8 by 7 by 10 in. pressed wood base and should be arranged just as shown in the simplified wiring diagram Fig. 1. A schematic circuit diagram is given in Fig. 2. Excellent stability and sensitivity are obtained by connecting the photocell in the control grid circuit of the dual-purpose 25A7-G tube. The 1,500-ohm, 2-watt potentiometer is easily adjusted for the light condition present so that changes in intensity of the light source will cause the plate current to change and the relay to operate. Condenser-filtered rectified current is placed on the plate and screen grid of the pentode section of the 25A7-G tube; chatter of the

> relay is prevented by the second 8-mfd. section of the dual electrolytic condenser unit.

A photo of the completed relay is shown in Fig. 1-A; it may be operated in this

(Continued to page 134A)

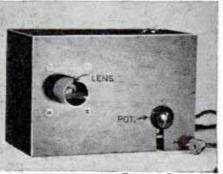


FIG. 1-B



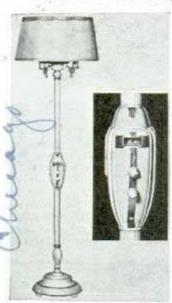
POPULAR MECHANICS

#### Battlefield Relics Found with Metal Locator



Twelve 6-in. shells and two pieces of bursted cannon were located and dug up on a civil war battlefield near Vicksburg, Miss., by Mr. James Nave in a single day. The above photo shows Mr. Nave with his trophies and the 5-tube radio metal locator, R-213, which he built from the construction article that appeared in the September, 1935, issue of Popular Mechanics Magazine. He has found about 750 pounds of battlefield relics and states that he has located more near the site of an old fort.

#### Radio Built into Floor Lamp

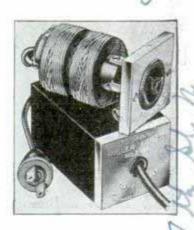


This combination lamp and receiver is a space saver in small apartments. A complete 4-tube set is built into the base: tuning controls and illuminated dial are located within easy reach of a chair for convenient operation and the speaker is in the top of the lamp.

#### All-Wave Line Filter

Used in connection with the supply cord of a radio receiver, this filter is claimed to

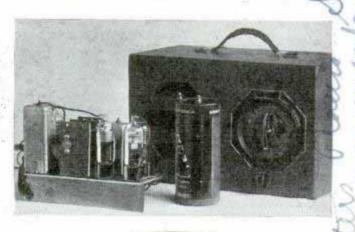
prevent unwanted signal pickup and direct-line noise interference from the house-wiring system. It employs double duo-lateral wound chokes and twin condensers. It is also suitable for use in eliminating interference from small



electrical appliances such as fans and vacuum cleaners.

#### Portable Battery Receiver

Operating on a single No. 6 dry-cell A-battery, and two small B-batteries, this 4-tube super employs new low-drain tubes for economical operation. The A-battery drain is said to be less than ¼ amp. It is available complete in cabinet or as a wired chassis and separate speaker for installation in a cabinet of your own construction.



Blueprints covering radio construction articles in past issues are available for 25 cents each; original material lists and additional information can be obtained from our Radio Department without charge upon receipt of postage.

NEXT MONTH—How to Build a Radio Tube Tester. This simplified unit can be used to check over 120 different types of modern tubes. Operates on 105 to 120-volt, 50 to 60-cycle a.c. power line and is not critical in adjustment. Also—An Inexpensive Low-Power CW Transmitter for Beginners, complete with power supply.

Radio

Lamp



## **FIREPLACE** SCREENS

Several styles-authentic reproductions — ornamented with decalcomania transfers

By WAYNE C. LECKEY

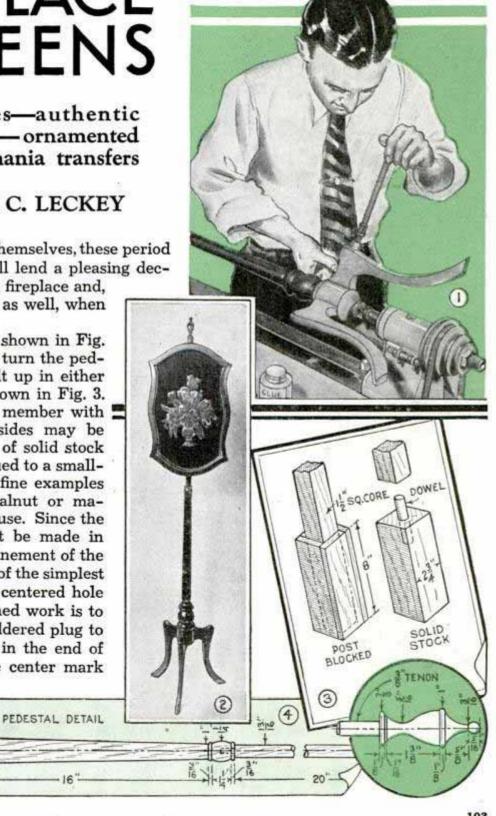
TRULY graceful in themselves, these period shadow screens will lend a pleasing dec-

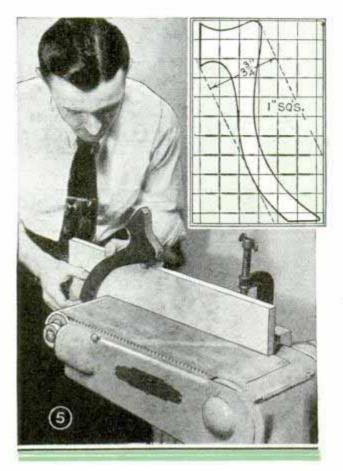
orative touch to a bare fireplace and, improve room balance as well, when

made in pairs.

To make the screen shown in Fig. 2, stock from which to turn the pedestal must first be built up in either of the two methods shown in Fig. 3. Here a square central member with blocks glued to the sides may be used, or a short block of solid stock can be doweled and glued to a smaller member. For such fine examples of period furniture walnut or mahogany is the wood to use. Since the complete column must be made in two sections, proper alinement of the two is important. One of the simplest methods of assuring a centered hole in the end of the finished work is to first turn a short, shouldered plug to slip into a hole bored in the end of the turning. Then the center mark

16"





of the plug is used in mounting the work between centers.

From the detail in Fig. 4, a full-size paper pattern should be enlarged from which the profile is traced onto the stock. Three legs are required and these can be gotten out of stock slightly less than 4 in. wide.

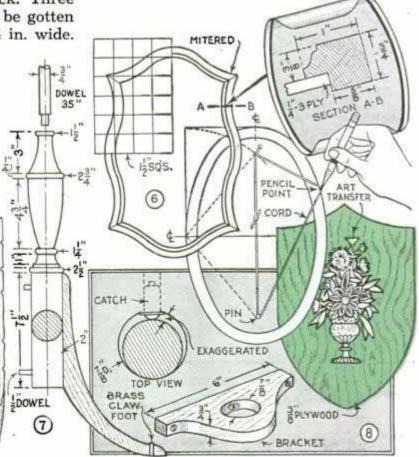
By inverting the pattern they can be sawed out of just about the minimum of stock. To save time and assure identical cuts band-saw these in sandwich form. After sanding and shaping the edges, the plumb cuts are made slightly concave to conform with the diameter of

1º 50S.

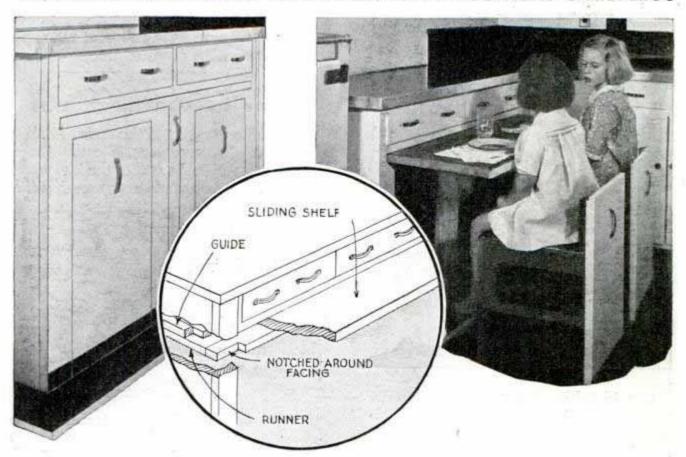
the turned column. This can be done with a small sanding drum or a wide sweep gouge. Dowels and glue are used in fastening

the legs to the column. The lathe index pulley can be used to good advantage in spacing them 120 degrees apart as in Fig. 1.

A similar procedure is used in working up the alternate design shown in Fig. 7. To simplify the turning, the upper shaft may be of a standard 34-in. dowel, stained to match the lower section. The beaded legs are likewise dowel fastened and capped with a standard claw foot. Aside from the rectangular screens, which can be mitered from standard stock picture molding, Figs. 6 and 8 give several irregular shapes which can be used. The scalloped and oval shapes shown are molded on the shaper while the shield is simply a veneer-faced plywood panel decorated with a decalcomania transfer. The screen is made adjustable on the upper section of the pedestal by means of a small \(\frac{1}{4}\)-in. bullet catch fitted to a bracket which in turn is screwed to the back of the screen as in Fig. 8. The open-type frames are fitted with a ¼-in, plywood panel over which a floral needle-point or tapestry is stretched before tacking with brads in the rabbeted edge. Care must be taken to space the brads equally to avoid wrinkles or uneven stretching of the tapestry panel.



### 'Breakfast Nook' Housed in Kitchen Cabinet



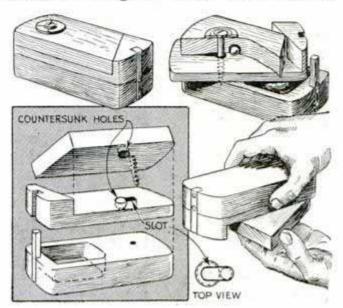
Here's a neat and useful space saver. It's simply an ordinary kitchen cabinet altered to house a table and two chairs as you see in the photos above. The detail in the circle shows how to alter a cabinet of the type having two drawers directly under the top and a shelf compartment below. Usually the compartment doors can be made to serve as chair backs, or, the latter

can be made of ¾-in. plywood. The shelf or table top is supported on an extra rail-and-runner frame just like a drawer. The shelf should be provided with a center leg and a handle or drawer pull as in the upper-left view. To prevent the shelf sliding out too far, stop blocks are screwed to the back edge.

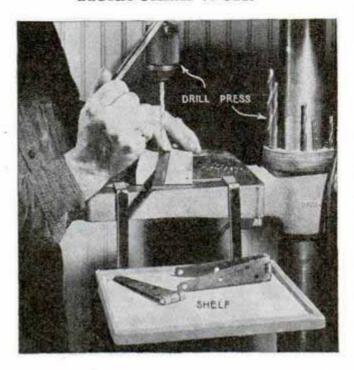
—Daniel R. Merrill, Montclair, N. J.

#### Gravity and Steel Ball Solve Puzzle to Open This Trick Box

To open this box, the two-piece lid must be slid away from the peg and swung around. But this is impossible when the box is closed and standing top side up, because a steel ball is then lodged in the slot next to the screw on which the lid parts pivot. To dislodge the ball from the slot and transfer it into a blind hole in the top part, turn the box upside down and swing the top part out. Then, holding the box normally, you slide the second part back. The blind hole may be located directly over the ball when the top part is closed, or at any other point the same distance from the screw, so the ball drops into the hole at a certain position of the top part.



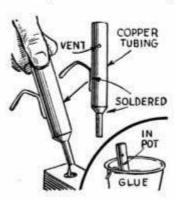
#### Hanging Shelf on Drill Press-Holds Small Work



Considerable time can be saved in drill-press work if you provide a small shelf that can be attached to the table to hold small parts. The one shown here was made of \(^3\sigma^-\)in. plywood cut to the same size as the drill-press table, and fitted with a narrow molding around the edge. Two lengths of flat iron, bent to form hooks, were screwed to the bottom. When the shelf is needed, the hooks are slipped into one of the table slots. The shelf is quickly removed for operations where the hooks would interfere.

#### Glue Dropper for Cabinet Work

Here's a dropper that will be found handy for applying glue in small dowel holes, blind mortises, etc. A short length



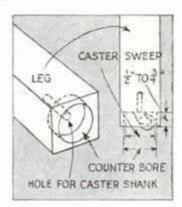
of copper tubing with one end closed has a spout soldered to the other end. A piece of wire soldered to the tube permits hanging it on the gluepot when not in use. A vent in the tube near the closed end permits

air to escape while filling, which happens each time the dropper is hung inside the gluepot. When the dropper is removed, a finger is placed over the vent to keep the glue from running out where not wanted. Raising the finger from the vent momentarily allows a few drops of glue to escape.

#### Casters Recessed in Furniture

In mounting casters to the ends of bulky or massive furniture legs, a counterbore should be made in the end of the leg, when possible, large enough to accommodate the

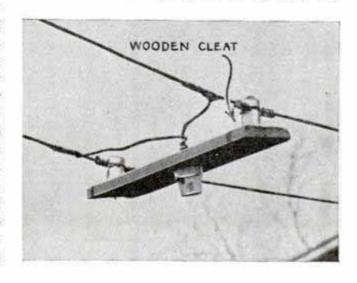
sweep of the caster. Furniture manufacturers often use a special recessing tool that makes a cut for the purpose at the same operation in which the leg is drilled to receive the caster shank. However, it is



quite possible to make a counterbore serve the same purpose, provided the leg is large enough to accommodate the caster sweep, and still leave a margin of wood standing all around.

### Stringing Lamps in the Garden to Avoid Short Circuits

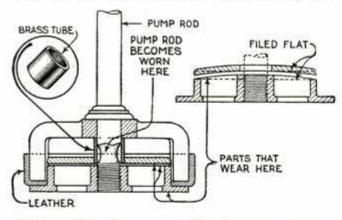
For illuminating lawns, gardens, parking spaces, etc., an improvement over the frequent method of stringing lamp cord around for the purpose, is to use two lengths of weatherproof, rubber-covered wire, which you can get from any dealer in electrical supplies. Wood spreaders serve the double purpose of spacing the



wires and carrying the lights. With this arrangement, constant movement of the wires cannot result in chafing and shortcircuiting, which is one objection to using lamp cord. While the size of the wire is determined by the load, No. 12-gauge will be satisfactory usually. The spreaders are all cut to the same length and electrician's porcelain "knobs" are used to attach the wire. A cleat receptacle is screwed to the underside of the spreader and short lengths of the same wire are connected to the receptacle after which they are spliced, soldered and taped as indicated. The leads are connected to a fused branch circuit block so that the circuit will be independent of all others.

#### Repairing a Pitcher Pump

When new leathers in the cylinder fail to repair a pitcher pump, the trouble may be due to wear on the iron disk as it moves in the plunger head. The hole in the disk becomes enlarged and the pump rod wears smaller. This allows the disk to slip sideways so that it does not cover the openings in the bottom part, thus allowing water to leak back. The meeting surfaces of the



disk and bottom part also become worn, allowing more leakage. A simple repair for this condition is effected by slipping a short piece of thin brass tubing over the worn place on the pump rod and filing the disk and bottom part flat where they touch. —David Jenkins, Xenia, Ohio.

Have you found an easier way to do some commonplace job around the home? If you have, send us a short description of how you did it, together with a snapshot or rough drawing. Popular Mechanics will mail you a check for all material accepted. Address Homecraft Editor.

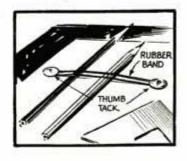
#### 'Pantograph' Drawer Swings Out from Workbench



This drawer can be pulled out to its full length with less effort than the sliding type because its weight is carried on four pivoted legs instead of cleats on the underside of the bench top. The drawer should be built sturdily, and reinforced along the sides where the legs are attached. A chain fastened to the back of the bench and to the rear end of the drawer limits its forward movement. A block is nailed to the underside of the bench top to serve as a stop when the drawer is swung back. When the drawer is resting against the block, the legs should slant toward the back slightly so it will not fall forward.

#### Pencils Held on Drawing Board

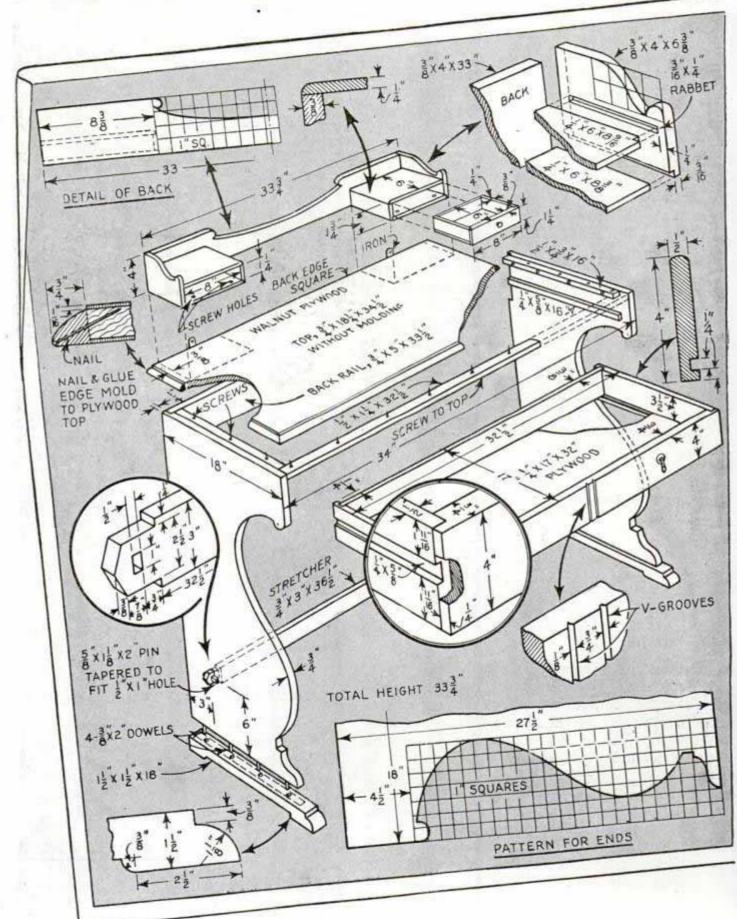
Stretched across one corner of a drawing board and fastened at the ends with thumb tacks, an ordinary rubber band provides a good emergency pencil hold-

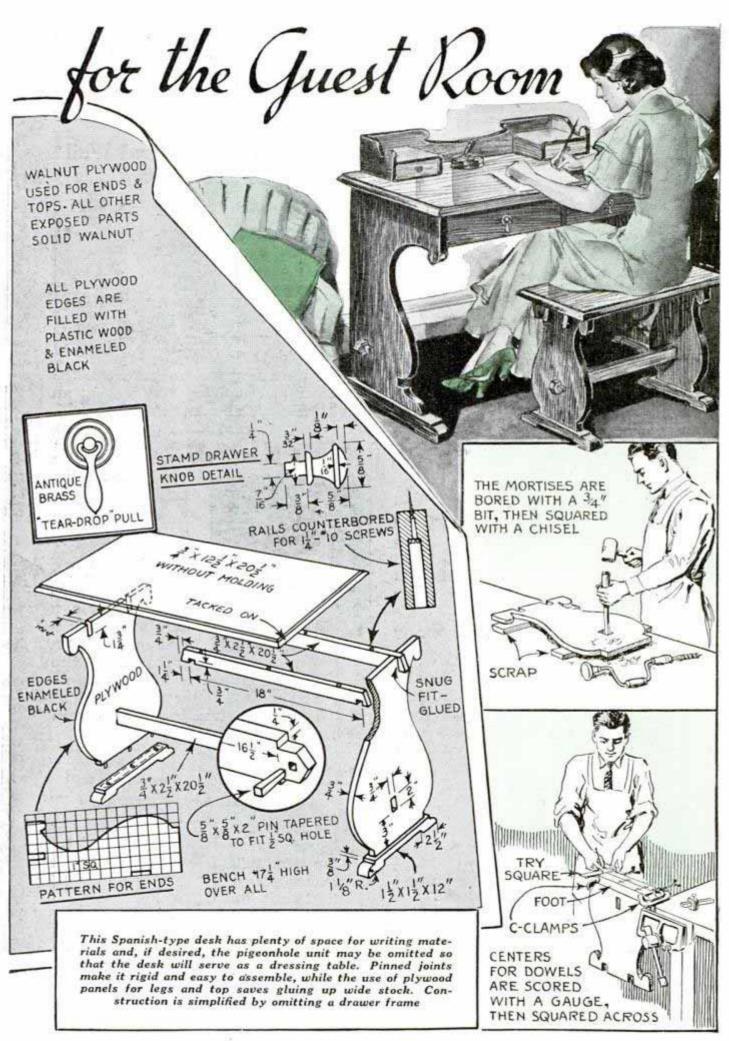


er. Just slip the pencils under the rubber band which will keep them from rolling.

-Horace Taylor, Anderson, Ind.

# DESK and BENCH





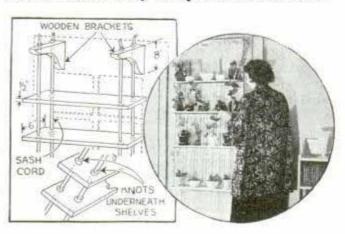
#### Wallpaper Knife Is Sharpened on Emery Cloth



Tacked to the pasting table near one corner, a piece of emery cloth is handy to keep a wallpaper trimming knife sharp. A few strokes of the knife across the abrasive surface of the paper at intervals will do the trick.

#### "Rope Ladder" Shelves for Door

Suggestive of rope ladders used on ships, these shelves look well on glass doors and give added space to the indoor gardener. They are useful for walls and windows, too. Ropes through holes near the corners of the shelves support the boards on knots tied just below the holes. The ropes are supported from brackets on the door so that the latter may be opened without dis-

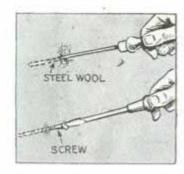


turbing the shelves. The holes in the shelves should be just a trifle larger than the rope used, but small enough so that a single knot will not pull through them.

—John G. Roberts, Chicago.

#### Screws Held in Plastered Wall with Steel Wool

The next time you want to drive a screw into plaster, make a small hole in the wall and tamp it tightly with steel wool. Then drive in your screw. Besides an-



choring the screw, the wool prevents the plaster from crumbling and making an ugly hole.—Ralph Baker, Santa Ana, Calif.

#### Clothespins Hold Tree Lights

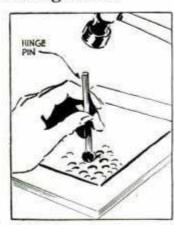


If Christmastree lights are fastened to springtype clothespins by their socket and wires with rubber bands as shown, they can be clamped in a vertical position safely along the

tree branches instead of hanging downward loosely. The clothespins should be painted green to harmonize with the green needles of the tree.

#### Ball of Hinge Pin Makes Tool for Hammering Brass

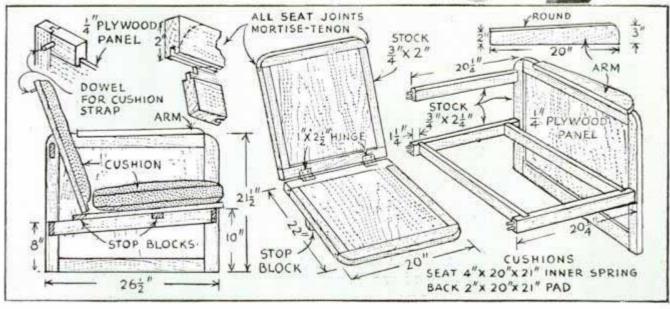
In the absence of a ball-peen hammer for decorating sheet brass, a good substitute can be improvised quickly by simply using the round end of a butt-hinge pin. One of these can be taken temporarily from a door.



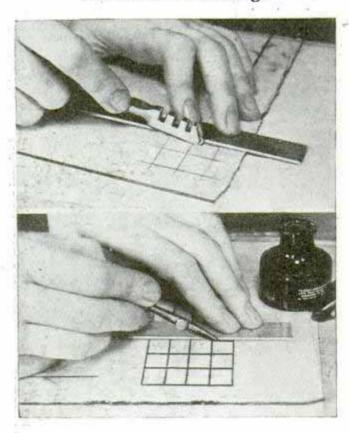
LOUNGE CHAIR
is adjustable

DEAL for the porch, and nice enough for den or playroom, this comfortable lounge chair is inexpensive and has an adjustable seat and back. Construction consists largely of making four 1/4-in. plywood panels, two for the chair sides and two for the seat and back. All joints in the frame should be mortised and tenoned or doweled. The two seat frames are the same size, and are held together with two butt hinges. After paneled sides of the chair have been made, the two panels can be fitted together with the various cross members. The upper crosspiece at the back should be rounded on the top edge to permit the seat back to slide against it. The two slanted members on which the seat rides are dadoed into the cross members, the joints being secured with dowels. Stop blocks are nailed to the slanted members to stop the backward travel of the seat; a second set of blocks nailed to the underside of the seat stops the forward travel.



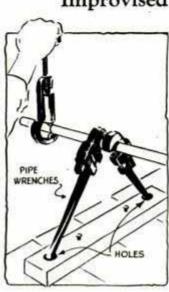


#### Simulating Casement Windows on Model Buildings



A good way to simulate windows on model buildings is to rule them on glass with India ink. Two methods may be used: The glass may be ruled with a glass cutter, the scored lines being filled later with the ink, or the lines may be made directly on the glass if its surface has been rubbed lightly with a piece of putty. After the ink has dried, the rest of the glass is carefully wiped clean. Then a coat of shellac is applied over the entire surface.

#### Improvised Pipe Vise

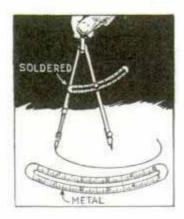


Home handy men who have no pipe vise, can improvise one from two pipe wrenches, which will serve well in an emergency. After adjusting the wrench jaws to grip the pipe securely, the handles are set in holes drilled in a piece of wood, which is nailed to the bench top near one end. The end of the pipe extending beyond the bench can be cut or threaded then with little difficulty.—Opie Read, Jr., Chicago.

#### Calibrated Radius Arm on Dividers

Here's a way to set a pair of dividers or a compass to any desired radius quickly with the aid of this calibrated arm. It is cut from a piece of sheet brass to the shape

shown and is slotted in the center,
after which it is
soldered to one leg
of the instrument.
A hole is drilled
and tapped in the
other leg for a
t h u m b s c r e w,
which fits the slot
of the arm and
locks the legs at
any desired ad-

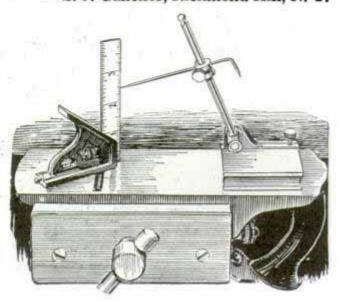


justment. To calibrate the arm, set the legs exactly 1 in. apart at the points and scribe both the arm and the leg. Then calibrate the remaining part of the arm in the same way.

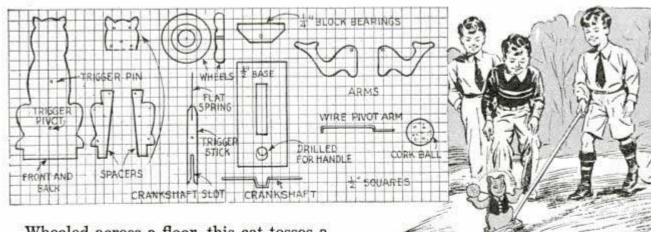
#### Plane Used as Surface Plate

As a substitute for a surface plate, a hand plane clamped upside down in a vise serves nicely. Of course, the cutter must be withdrawn and the sole wiped clean. In the illustration, a surface gauge is being set to a combination square.

-S. J. Gancher, Richmond Hill, N. Y.



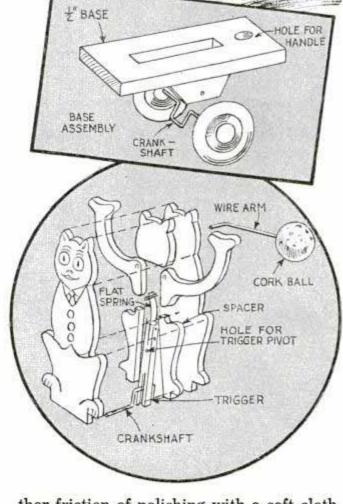
### "Juggling Cat" Tosses Ball from Paw to Paw



Wheeled across a floor, this cat tosses a cork ball from one paw to the other and it will entertain a small child for hours. Simple construction permits the parts to be cut in duplicate so that you could assemble a number of toys and sell them at a profit. Thin stock is used for the body, which consists of two duplicate parts with spacing blocks between, which are bradded together, leaving sufficient space for the pendulum to swing. This is provided with a piece of clock spring. The pendulum, pivoted on a brad driven through the toy, rides the crankshaft axle and is moved back and forth as the axle turns, snapping the spring strip across the trigger pin. The force of the spring striking the pivoted arms alternately flips them upward in an arc, tossing the cork ball back and forth over the head of the figure. The ball is impaled upon a wire which pivots at the central point of the figure. If desired, you can make the toy to suit the season. A rabbit can be substituted for the cat, and the ball can be replaced with an "egg," to convert the toy into an Easter special.

#### A Wax Finish on Wood Plates, Spoons and Salad Bowls

Here is an excellent penetrating wax that will give a high luster to natural-finished wood plates, salad bowls, etc., and contains nothing that contaminates or imparts a flavor to the food. It is made by melting pure, white beeswax and stirring in an equal amount of olive oil as the wax cools. The mixture will solidify at room temperature. A lump of it will smooth out under the warmth of the bare hands as it is rubbed on the work with the fingers. Fur-



ther friction of polishing with a soft cloth makes a perfect spread of the right consistency. The finish is brightened easily without polish and is impervious to finger marks.—H. Thompson, Westfield, N. J.

¶Gauze bandage material provides good facings for sheer wash frocks when the hem has been let down and there is no matching goods. It has the advantage of being pre-shrunk and therefore does not pucker when laundered.

## A PENDLETON

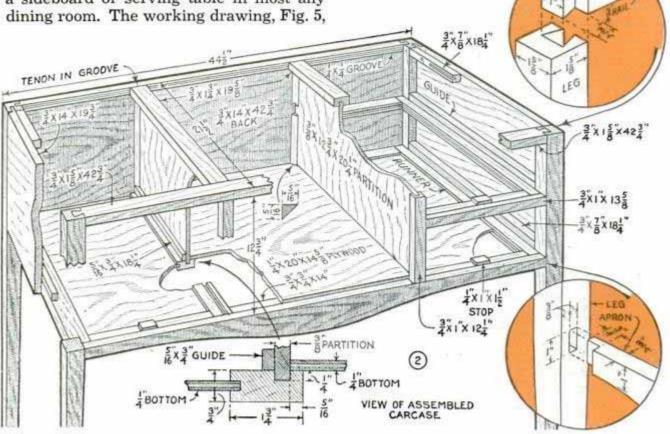


By R. O. BUCK
Lane Technical High School, Chicago

ONE of the choicest pieces in the famous Pendleton collection of American furniture of the Revolutionary era is the Pendleton sideboard shown in Fig. 1. The original is made of mahogany veneer, inlaid with fine lines of holly. The simplicity of the design gives the piece a distinction and individuality which makes it useful as a sideboard or serving table in most any dining room. The working drawing, Fig. 5,

gives the general dimensions and also the location of the various decorative bands of holly inlay. The brass bails or pulls detailed are not exactly like the originals but resemble them so closely that they are suggested as a style that is available at a nominal cost.

The carcase: The cut-away drawing, Fig. 2, shows the method of framing the carcase. The ends and back panels are mortised into the legs with the outer faces flush with the faces of the legs. This type of construction requires very careful fitting so that no unsightly lines will be evident. It is advisable to set the panels in just a trifle when fitting so that a little may be planed from the leg later if necessary to make them perfectly flush. On the original, even the legs and rails are veneered. For your reproduction it is suggested that solid wood be substituted, and veneer, if used, confined to the larger areas such as the top, ends, drawer fronts, and doors. The compartment framing is un-



## SIDEBOARD

Built in the true American tradition—an accurate copy of a famous original

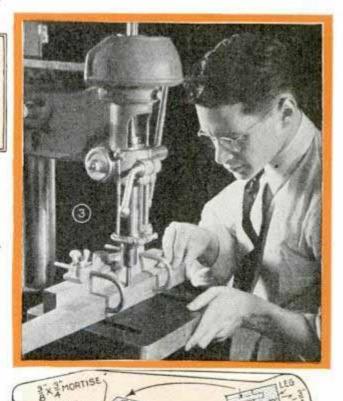
usual, as shown in the detail of the partition cross rail. These pieces carry the partition, form a ledge for the compartment
and a runner for the drawer. The partitions at the sides of the compartment are
mortised into the top rail and apron, and
the dividing rail for the drawers is mortised into the leg and vertical member in
a similar manner. The partitions are secured at the back with triangular cleats,
which are tacked and glued into place, but
all other edges of the partitions are housed
in grooves.

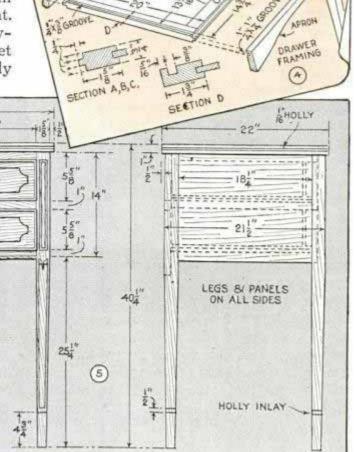
Framing for the drawer section is shown in Fig. 4. Note that these frames are set into grooves in the ends, back and apron, resulting in an unusually rigid construction. See sections A, B, C and D, Fig. 4. Plywood panels are set into the bottom frames to make the drawers dusttight. The frame for the upper, right-hand drawer is made in a similar manner, but is set in grooves on only three sides, and simply

DETAIL OF BRASS BAILS

HINGE

HOLLY





SQUARE

BANDING

INTE LOOSE

X7X12



of the easiest methods for cutting the long panel mortises in the legs is shown in Fig. 3, using a routing bit and guide on a drill press.

APRON

The top: The top is made perfectly plain except for a single band of holly set into the edge. The groove for this inlay is cut by running the piece over a circular saw set to a depth of 1/16 in. In order to allow for possible expansion or shrinkage the top is fastened in place with twelve hardwood clamp blocks, which are screwed to the top and engage grooves in the framing members as shown in Fig. 11.

Doors: The compartment doors are or-

glued against the partition on the other. The plywood panel in this frame is optional. Dovetail joints used at the ends of the top rail are detailed in Fig. 2, also the single shoulder tenon used on the ends of the apron. The shape of the apron should be worked out from the squared pattern shown in Fig. 7, then band-sawed to shape. This piece is ornamented with an inlaid spray of holly

and also a band of marquetry along the bottom edge. The spray is simply cut into the stock with a sharp knife. If veneered stock is used it is necessary to cut only through the first ply. For solid stock a depth of ½2 in. is sufficient. Marquetry banding is set into a shallow rabbet cut along the curved edge of the apron. As this banding can be purchased ready-made, at a nominal cost, it is not practical to make it. The method of applying the banding and inlays is described later. The tapered legs are detailed in Fig. 8. A dovetail mortise in the top of the front legs is laid out from the dimensions given in Fig. 2. One

namented with holly inlays as shown in Fig. 9. Grooves for the inlays can be cut with the grain by means of a special cutter which is readily made from a piece of hacksaw blade or clock spring, to the shape shown in Fig. 13. The cutter, after grinding to a keen edge, is inserted in an ordinary wood marking gauge in place of the usual point. Cuts across the grain are made with a straightedge and sharp knife or the router as in Fig. 14. The method shown in Fig. 15 for scoring the concave corners works well if the points of the dividers are sharp. The block clamped at the corner

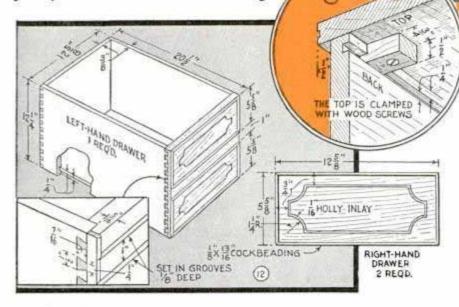
JAMB

BOTTOM

prevents making an unsightly hole. After scoring the curved lines with the dividers, the wood is readily removed by following with the knife. The edges of the doors are covered with strips called "cockbeading." This feature serves the double purpose of covering the plywood joints and ornamenting the doors. The beading is applied by gluing and tacking, as shown in Fig. 10. Note that it is omitted at the meeting edge, Fig. 9.

The doors do not have a rabbeted joint as is customary in modern work, but are simply made to fit rather close. A rim lock is installed in the right-hand door, with a tongue mortise to correspond in the left. Both doors are fitted with an escutcheon of the type shown but the one to the left is false. The left door is held closed by means of an elbow catch. The doors swing on antique brass hinges, set 1½ in. in from

the top and bottom. The sectional view through the compartment shows the bottom, which forms a jamb, and the location of the top



jamb strip. See lower-right detail, Fig. 9.

Drawers: One of the unusual features of the piece is the left-hand drawer, Fig. 12, which is made to simulate two drawers and thus give a symmetrical arrangement. This feature may be omitted if desired and four uniform size drawers provided by simply making the drawer framing identical on both sides of the compartment. The drawer fronts are ornamented with a cockbeading and holly inlays to match the doors. A recess is cut along the ends to house the cockbeading. This allows for cutting the dovetail joint into the end

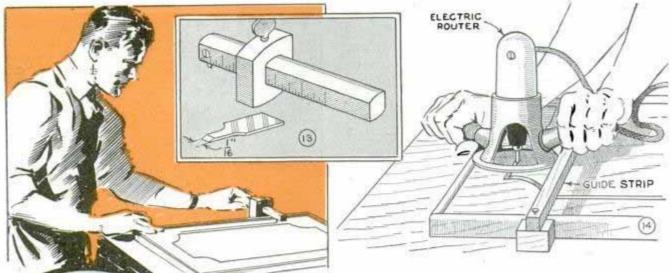
grain without having to cut through the beading. The two strips which give the appearance of outlin-

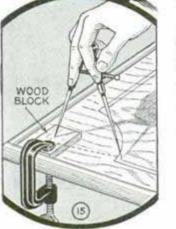
ing the top of one drawer and the bottom of the other are set into shallow grooves as indicated. The dovetailing should be laid out and the pins cut on the side piece first, Fig. 12. This piece is then laid on the front and the sockets carefully scribed in the manner shown in Fig. 6. The blind dovetail in the front is cut with a bit and

chisel in the usual manner, before the narrow strip of cockbeading is tacked into the recess.

Open dovetailing is used at the back corners and the bottom is set in a groove in the usual way. Stop blocks, glued to the front rails, Fig. 2, prevent the drawer from being pushed in too far. The two drawers for the right-hand side are duplicates.

Inlaying: The inlaying, which should be done before the various members are assembled, is simple, but requires careful work. After the corners of the grooves have been squared up, strips of the band-





ing are cut to a rather snug fit and the corners mitered with a knife or razor blade. The strips should be large enough so that they extend slightly above the surface when they are in place. Thin glue is applied

sparingly to both the grooves and the strips, and the latter forced into place by tapping with a hammer over a block of wood. The piece is then covered with a strip of paper to absorb any glue which may ooze out and tend to stick the inlay to the gluing strip. The latter is simply a piece of scrap which is laid over the work to equalize the pressure and prevent the clamps from marring the surface. When

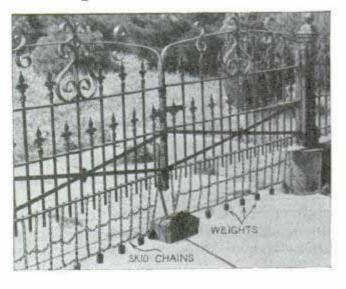
the glue is dry the banding is sanded down flush. The marquetry along the bottom of the apron is applied in a similar manner. Many craftsmen obtain good results by using plastic wood for inlays, and of course this process is much simpler, especially for the spray design in the apron. Care must be taken in using this material, however, that it is not spread over the surfaces around the grooves as it is likely to cause a discoloration in the finish later. The original sideboard is finished in a deep-red color and has a rich dull sheen that is exceedingly beautiful. This finish is achieved by the use of a red mahogany filler, followed by an oil stain of the same color, one coat of thin shellac and three of rubbing varnish. The shellac and varnish should be sanded lightly after each coat and at least three days allowed between applications. Pumice and water are used to rub the final coat to an egg-shell gloss.

### Skid Chains on Driveway Gate Keep Out Cats and Dogs

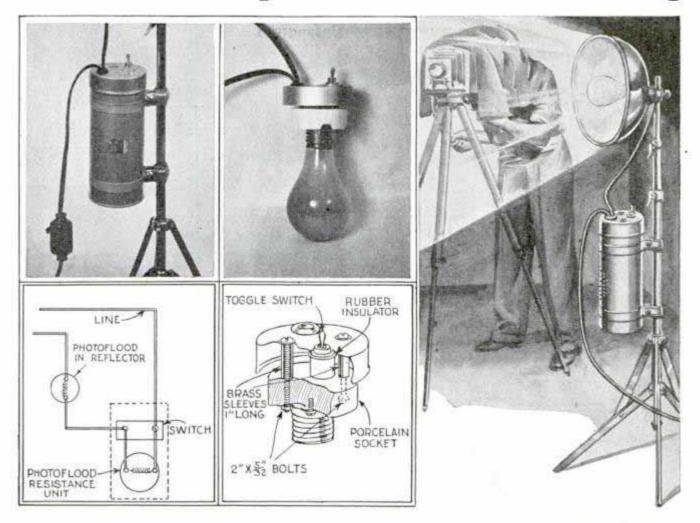
Old skid chains were fastened under a gate of a private driveway to fill the space between the bottom of the gate and the surface of the recessed driveway to keep out small animals. The chains were wired to the gate and lead weights were attached to the bottom of the chains.

-Dale R. Van Horn, Lincoln, Nebr.

¶To avoid cutting a mimeograph stencil too deeply, place a piece of thin tissue paper, of the kind used for tracing, over the stencil to absorb some of the blow from the typewriter keys.



### Photoflood Lamps Dimmed While Focusing

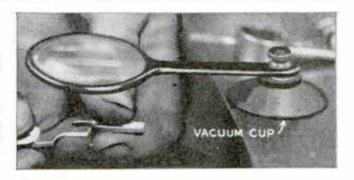


Dimming the photoflood lamps while preparing to make an exposure prolongs the life of the lamps considerably besides eliminating the discomfort to a person being photographed. To do this conveniently by just snapping a switch, one photographer designed a neat unit comprising a bicycle dry-cell case in which a second photoflood lamp, the same size as the one in the reflector, was mounted. After drilling holes in the case to assure adequate ventilation, a porcelain socket was fastened inside of the lid with machine screws and a

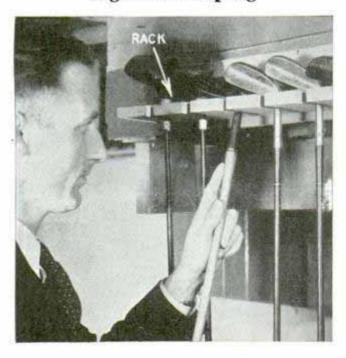
small toggle switch of the panel-mounting type designed for 110-volt operation, was located next to the socket as shown. Wiring was done according to the diagram at the left, using flexible rubber-covered cable. After the unit was assembled and wired, the case was clamped to the lamp stand. Pushing the switch toward one side caused both photofloods to light at much less brilliancy than normal, and pushing the switch the other way cuts out the lamp in the unit and allows the one in the reflector to burn at full brilliancy.

#### Magnifying Glass Held by Vacuum Cup Leaves Hands Free

Modelmakers and others who often have to examine small parts under a magnifying glass will like this method of anchoring it to leave both hands free. The handle of the glass is drilled to take the screw in a vacuum cup of the type used to fasten ash trays to car windshields. This permits the glass to be set on some smooth surface of the bench, wall, or any other place desired.



#### Wooden Rack Protects Golf Clubs Against Warping

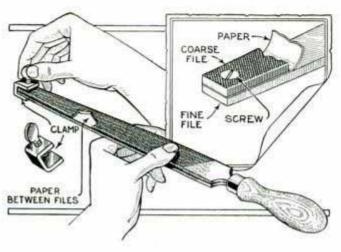


Before storing your golf clubs for the winter, assemble this simple little rack and hang them in it. It assures protection for the clubs so that they will not warp as they might if left standing in a corner. The rack is nothing more than a length of wood with slots cut in it to take the shank of the club handle close to the head.

-Joseph P. Driscoll, Buffalo, N. Y.

#### Fine and Coarse File Combined to Save Time

When you have a job in which you first outline the work roughly with a coarse file and finish it with a fine one, this combination file will save time. It consists of a fine and coarse file fastened together with a piece of paper between them to protect the teeth. A small improvised C-clamp can be



used to fasten them or the metal can be annealed back an inch or so from the end and drilled to take a small bolt, countersinking the head of the latter. When one side of each file has become worn, you can take them apart and change the faces.

-M. M. Warren, Monterrey, N. L., Mex.

#### Hold-Down on Power Scroll Saw Converted to Presser Foot

When cutting thin material in a scroll saw where the hold-down has to press against the work so tightly that the latter is hard to slide over the table, this presser foot, which is somewhat similar to one on a sewing machine. will solve the problem. Get a small collar that

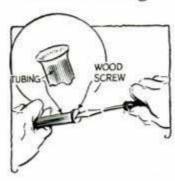


fits over the shaft of the hold-down after which you drill and tap the collar for a thumbscrew. Then slip a coil spring over the shaft and adjust the collar against the spring to give the required pressure on the work, leaving the adjustment screw on the hold-down loose so that the shaft is free to move up and down.

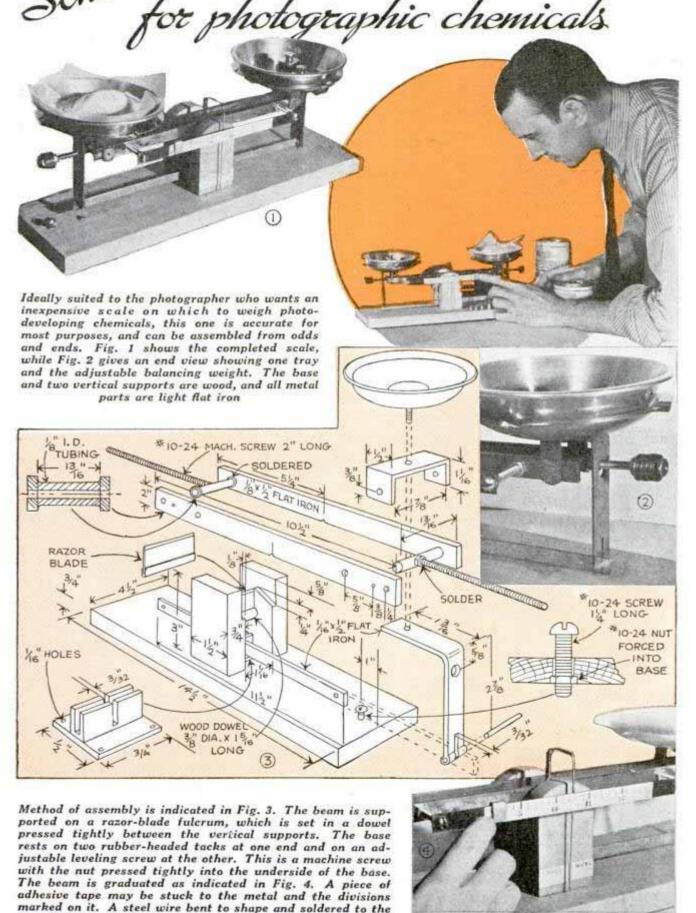
-A. H. Waychoff, Tempe, Ariz.

#### Wood Screw Flares Tubing

In an emergency, the end of a piece of copper tubing can be flared quite satisfactorily to take a compression fitting with an ordinary flat-head wood screw. Select a

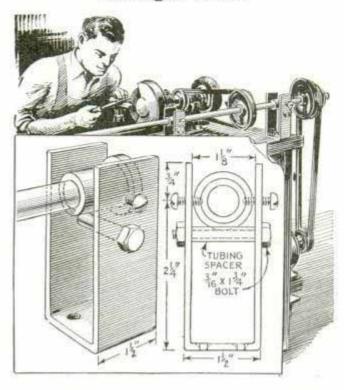


screw with a head somewhat larger in diameter than the inside diameter of the tubing. While holding the tubing with one hand rotate the screw with the screwdriver, pressing against it firmly. The bevel on the underside of the screw will tend to flare the end of the tubing. Sensitive BEAM SCALE for photographic chemicals



beam centrally between the ends serves as a pointer

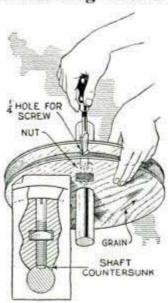
#### Self-Alining Shaft Hangers for Light Work



These hangers are suitable for running most light home workshop machines, and are made easily with hand tools. Soft steel for the frame should be bent to shape before drilling and tapping. Model-T Ford bronze spindle-bolt bushings are used for bearings. These will fit a ½-in. shaft with slight reaming. Hangers are self-alining, and will take 4-in. pulleys.

-Walter Clark, Portsmouth, N. H.

#### Fastening Wood Pulley on Shaft



When a small pulley is needed, I turn it from a piece of 1-in, hardwood and fasten it to the shaft by the method indicated. After turning the pulley, drill a 1/4-in. hole across the grain from the top of the pulley to the shaft, and then make a slot about % in. from the shaft to take the nut of a stove bolt,

which serves as a set screw. After cutting off the head of the bolt, the end is slotted for a screwdriver to tighten it. A shallow countersink in the shaft helps to keep the bolt from slipping when the pulley is under a stiff pull.

—Arthur Salzsieder, Oshkosh, Wis.

#### Taking Thin Cut on Board

If you happen to cut a piece of work a trifle too long so that you have to remove a thin strip from one end, try the following method: Lay the work on a piece of scrap board as shown and saw

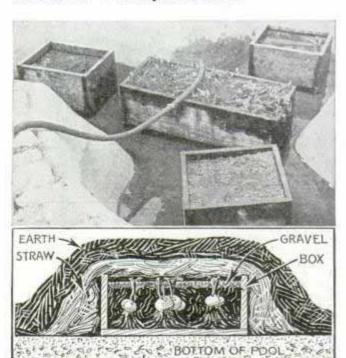


through both pieces. The scrap piece tends to guide the saw so that it doesn't break off the thin strip that is being removed.

-Sigmund Segson, New Milford, N. J.

#### Protecting Plants in Fish Pool During Cold Weather

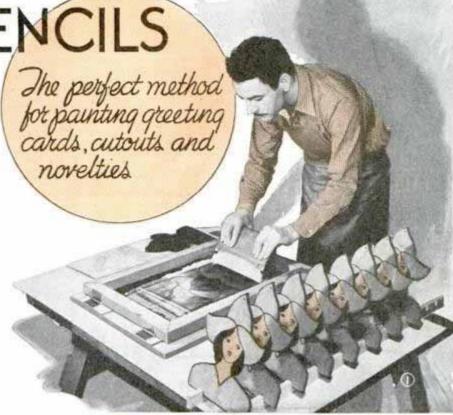
Here's a good way to protect plants in your fish pool during the winter. When they are set out in the spring place them in boxes of suitable depth and size. A layer of gravel is applied over the soil in the boxes. When fall comes, trim down the plants, drain off the water, tramp straw around the pots and then cover the straw with a 5 or 6-in. layer of earth.

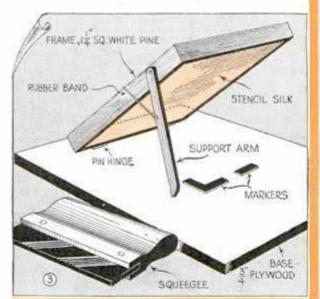


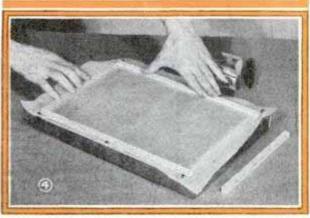
SILK STENCILS

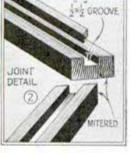
SIMPLER than cutting linoleum blocks, silkscreen stencils offer the home craftsman one of the fastest and cleanest methods for painting greeting cards and cutouts. Painting can be done on any flat surface, and the design can be worked on wood, cardboard, cloth, or any other material. Photographic processes simplify the art work, so that intricate designs can be reproduced easily by the average worker.

The setup is simple. As shown in Fig. 3, there is a wooden frame on which is stretched a piece of stencil silk or organdy. The





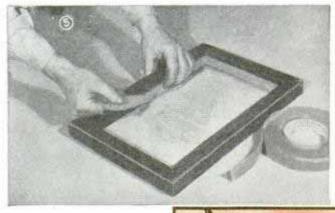




frame is hinged to a base board with two pin hinges. The design is painted or blocked out on the silk screen and is reproduced by forcing paint through the open meshes of the screen, using a rubber squeegee.

In setting up for any job, the first thing required is the wooden frame. For average-size work, this is made from 1¼-in. square white pine. The frame should be about 2 in. wider than the design and about 6 in. longer, inside dimensions. Frame members are mitered and grooved, as shown in the detail, Fig. 2. The stencil silk is fitted to the frame by first tacking it loosely in place; then, ½-in. square cleat sticks are pushed into the grooves, as shown in Fig. 4, stretching the silk drum-tight.

One of the simplest methods of getting the design onto the screen is the paper mask or knife-cut stencil, as shown in Figs. 5 to 13 inclusive. In the example, Fig. 6 is the copy, which is drawn full size. A sheet of tracing paper large enough to cover the screen is coated with shellac, as shown in Fig. 7. While this is drying, the copy is coated with wax, rubbing on a thin film with the fingers, as shown in Fig. 8. A good wax for this pur-

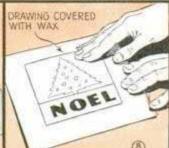


completely blocked off except for the design. Then you pour a quantity of paint onto the screen, and wipe it across the design with the squeegee, as shown in Fig. 12. Fig. 13 shows the screen in an up position, with the work in place, registered by two cardboard markers fastened to the base.

Another method of getting the design onto the screen is to block it out with a special lacquer filler. The Dutch-girl cut-



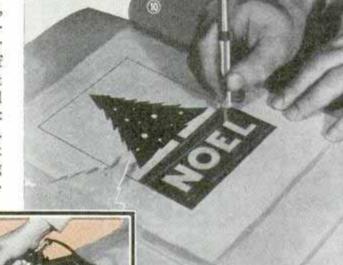


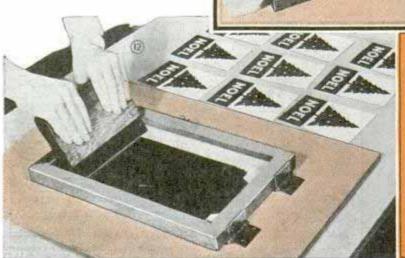




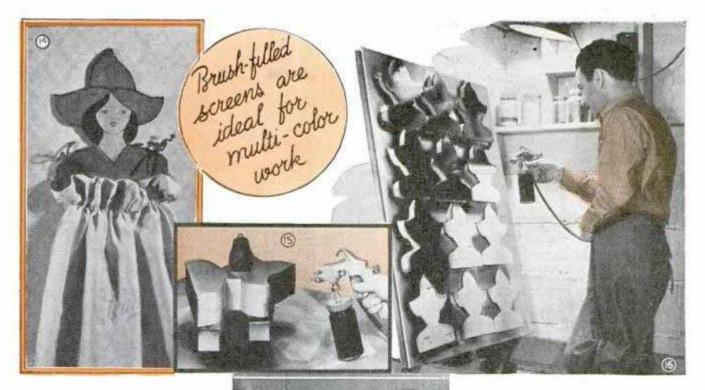
pose is made from equal parts of beeswax, kerosene and linseed oil. The tracing paper, shellacked side up, is then rolled over the waxed drawing, Fig. 9. All portions of the design which are to print are now cut out with a stencil knife or razor blade and stripped off, as shown in Fig. 10, the wax coating holding the design firmly in place. After the cutting is complete, the silk screen is placed over the design, and, using a thin, soft pressing cloth and a medium-

hot iron, the design is adhered to the screen, as shown in Fig. 11. Finally, the inside edges of the screen are lined with masking tape, as shown in Fig. 5, to prevent paint from leaking through. The result is a screen









SCREEN.

TO RUN

MARKERS

out for the top of a laundry bag, Fig. 14, is an example. Start, as before, by making a full-size copy of the design. Transfer the outline of the design to 1/4-in, plywood or wallboard and cut out the required number on the band saw or scroll saw. Stack the cutouts on edge and spray with black paint, as shown in Fig. 15, then, spray or paint the faces of the cutouts, as in Fig. 16. In the example, however, the first step is to secure an all-black cutout. The second is to make the screen, which is done by placing the screen over the copy, as in Fig. 17. The design, which is plainly visible through the silk, is then traced with a mediumhard pencil and painted with the lacquer filler. Since the cutout is already black, we will not want any of the black in the design to print. Hence, everything that is black on the copy is filled in with lacquer on the

screen, also, all the area outside the design is blocked off, as shown by the black in Fig. 18. This design is in two colors, yellow face and red hat and dress. The yellow is printed first, and, in order to protect the red, all the red areas are blocked out. This is done with a filler which is soluble in water. In Fig. 18, the gray portions of the design represent water filler. Thus, only the yellow face is left open, and this is painted on the black cutout, as shown in Fig. 19. After the





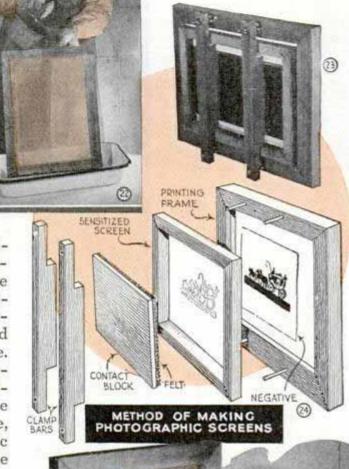
run in yellow is complete, the water filler is washed out, leaving the original lacquer-filled screen. The yellow face is then blocked off with water filler, leaving the red hat and dress open for painting, Fig. 1.

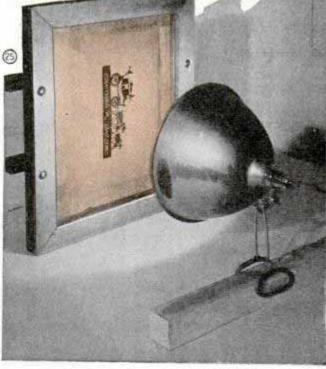
The stencil silk used for brushfilled screens is what is known as No. 16, running about 140 threads per inch. It is available in several grades. Knife-cut stencils of open design can be run on organdy. The paints used should be made

especially for screen work. These are available in flat and gloss, also in a special-process lacquer, and are put up in paste form, being thinned as required with a special non-clogging varnish. Average consistency for painting on cardboard or wood should be slightly thinner than soft grease.

The photographic method requires no artistic ability, since the worker can copy designs directly from any book or magazine with the aid of a camera. In the example, Fig. 21 is the copy. As in any photographic process, a negative is required, that is, the copy must be transferred, in black, to a clear sheet of celluloid or tracing paper. If desired, the negative can be made by hand by placing a sheet of heavy tracing paper over the copy, as shown in Fig. 20, so that the design can be filled in with photographer's opaque or black ink. In the second method of making a negative, the copy can be made with a camera. This gives a negative which has white lines on a black ground. This first negative is then exposed to a second film, which results in a true copy of black lines on a clear ground.

So much for the negative. The next job is to sensitize the silk screen so that it can be printed just the same as a photographer prints a photograph. No. 16 stencil silk is used. The sensitizer can be purchased from any process supply house, and requires







only mixing with water to make it ready. The solution is flowed on over the face of the screen, as shown in Fig. 22. All operations can be done in ordinary room light except the drying of the sensitized screen, requiring about 30 min., which should be in a darkened room. After the screen is dry, the print can be made. This is done just the same as printing a photograph, Fig. 24 showing the setup. The negative is placed face up (reading position) on the glass in the printing frame. The silk screen, face down, is then placed over the negative, followed by a contact block and clamps. Fig. 23 shows the frame ready for printing, while Fig. 25 shows the exposure being made, using a photoflood lamp. Exposure time is approximately 15 min., and has the effect of hardening the exposed portions of the screen. After printing, the screen is held under a stream of warm water, Fig. 27, which washes out the soft, protected parts of the design. Fig. 26 shows the finished photog aphic screen; Fig. 28 shows the job being run. While the example shows printing in one color only, as many colors as desired can be run by blocking out with water filler as previously described.

A useful dodge which can be used to advantage for certain types of two-color work is shown in Fig. 29. The copy is the Dutch girl previously shown, but in this case the hat is to be red and the dress blue. By fastening a cardboard bridge to the screen with masking tape and using two squeegees, both the red and the blue can be run at one time. Another method of multi-color printing is the elimination process. Using the Dutch girl again for an example, the first run would paint the hat, face and dress in red. The red hat and



AFTER PRINTING, THE SCREEN IS HELD UNDER HOT WATER TO BRING OUT THE PICTURE-LEFT

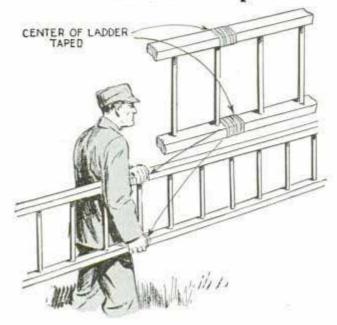




dress would then be blocked out, leaving only the face which would be run in yellow. Then, if desired, the face could be blocked out, leaving only the eyes to print in blue.

Dipping a rubber eraser in emery powder will make it suitable for cleaning rusted or corroded metal surfaces quickly.

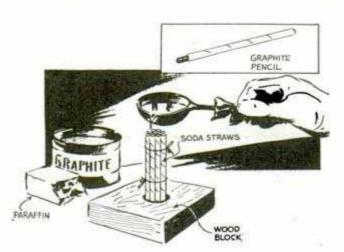
#### Balancing Point of Ladder Marked with Tape



Painters who are obliged to carry ladders from place to place are often annoyed and delayed by the necessity of "trying" the ladder for balance. If the center of balance is located and each standard of the ladder is given a wrapping of electricians' tape at those points, the tape will serve as an easy handgrip for carrying and the ladder will balance evenly when lifted from the ground and carried.

#### Making Up Graphite-Core Pencils

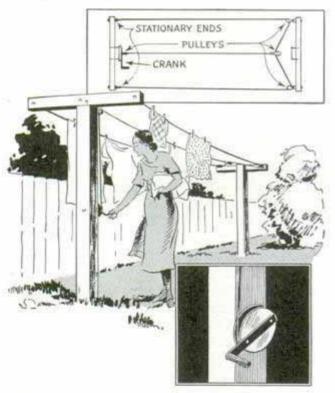
Soda straws filled with a lubricant made by mixing paraffin and graphite are handy to use on locks, hinges and other moving parts where graphite is preferred to oil. Get a dozen or so soda straws and tie them together. Then melt a small quantity of paraffin and while it is kept melted over heat, stir in graphite until the mixture is



the consistency of heavy syrup. Place the straws in a wood block, as shown, pour in the mixture and let it cool. In use the end of a straw is torn off and the pencil rubbed on the object to be lubricated.

#### Two-Wire Clothesline Tightened with a Crank

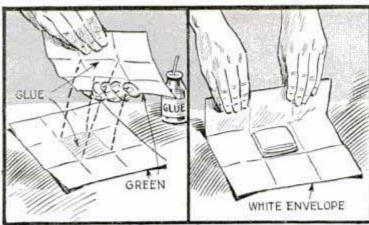
If you have this clothesline in your yard, you can throw away the line props because you just turn a crank to tighten the wires. Two support posts with crossarms are required. One arm carries two pulleys near the ends, and the other one carries two hooks near the ends and a pulley in the center. The pulleys on the arm should be of the type that have one side open so that the wires or ropes can be slipped into them easily. In use, one wire is fastened to one



of the hooks, then run over the pulleys and back to the other hook. The tightening wire has a closed-type pulley on the end to run over the first wire between the two pulleys on the arm as indicated. This wire is then run over the closed pulley between the two hooks to a crank mounted on the support post. The original crank was of the type used to shut off windmills. If this type is unavailable, you can make one easily, using a grooved wood disk with a crank attached to it.

-Conrad L. Lenstrom, Arcadia, Nebr.

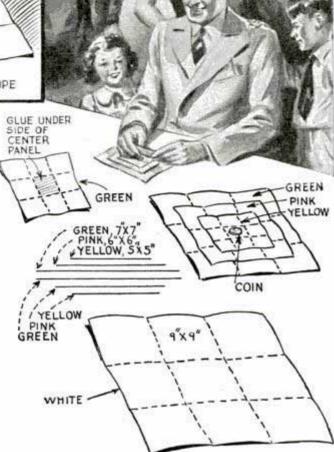
# This Disappearing Coin Trick Is a Real Poser



Here's a little trick to remember for the next party. A coin is wrapped inside of three small sheets of paper, one over the other. Then, keeping the wrapped coin right before your eyes, the performer shows you how completely the coin is wrapped and even allows you to pinch the paper for assurance. Next, he lays the paper on the table, unwraps it carefully in full vision of spectators, who are amazed to discover that the coin has disappeared entirely, seemingly right through the paper without even leaving a hole.

And now to explain just how it's done. Cut seven squares of colored paper to the dimensions shown-two yellow, two pink and two green; the largest and last one being white paper. Crease the sheets to fold as indicated by the dotted lines, place the two green sheets back to back and stick the center panels together with glue. Place the green sheets on the table with one pink and one yellow sheet on top, and fold each envelope, starting with the yellow one which should be inclosed in the pink one, and so on. When the folds are completed, reverse the packet so that the unfolded green sheet is uppermost and repeat the process. You now have two packets of folded envelopes but the green ones are glued together through the center panels so that the assembly appears as one package. With this inclosed in the white envelope you are ready for the performance. Placing the packet on the table, you borrow a coin. Ask the donor to observe the date so that when you return it he will see it is the same coin.

Unwrapping the envelopes, and leaving them in the order shown, place the coin in



the center of the smallest envelope and refold them separately as before, but, before finishing by inclosing in the white envelope, give the green packet an extra turn which will bring the empty assembly of envelopes uppermost. This extra flip of the package will not be noticed by the spectators as your folding is accomplished by turning each envelope over in its turn. Now unfold the sheets. The last and yellow envelope will be found empty. To make the coin re-appear, simply re-fold the envelopes and repeat the turning of the packet after the green one is closed.

—G. E. Hendrickson, Argyle, Wis.

¶A quickly vanishing red ink can be made by dissolving a small quantity of phenolphthalein in strong ammonia. Writing done with this ink disappears a short time after it has been exposed to the air.

#### Auto Casings Hold Bricks on Roof for Chimney Work



It will not be necessary to build a stand or bench on the roof to hold bricks, when repairing a chimney, if a couple of discarded auto casings are tied together with a stout rope and placed over the roof, as indicated. The bricks are placed inside of the casings on each side of the roof.

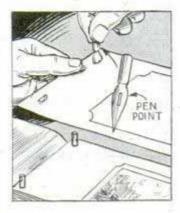
#### Flexible Cable Cut Off Squarely When Held Between Blocks

When working with flexible tubing or cable, you can cut it off squarely with a hack saw if it is held between blocks as shown in the photograph. One block of rectangular shape is fastened to the bench and another block of the same size and shape is cut diagonally across to form two wedges. One of these is nailed to the bench near the first one so that the other wedgeshaped piece can be driven in to grip the

tubing tightly. If care is taken in locking the blocks, the wedge-shaped piece can be driven up flush with the end of the rectangular one so that the two ends will serve as a saw guide.

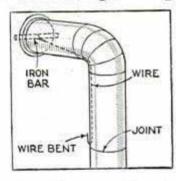
#### Notebook Sheets Perforated with a Pen Point

The next time you want to insert an unperforated sheet of paper in a loose-leaf note-book, punch the holes neatly with an ordinary pen point. The same method is also handy for perforating paper to



take the corners of cards and photos as a substitute for gummed corner tabs.

#### Fastening Stovepipe in Chimney



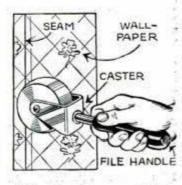
One home owner who had experienced considerable trouble by having his stovepipe slip out of the chimney opening, anchored it as indicated. A small iron bar was

placed across the inside surface of the chimney opening. Then a wire was tied to this and run down inside the pipe where it was hooked over the edge of one section.

-Walter Fowler, Lawrence, Kans.

#### Wallpaper Seam Roller

In the absence of a regular roller for smoothing seams in wallpaper, you can improvise a serviceable one from a furniture caster of the wheel type. If desired, the stem



of the caster can be fitted with a suitable handle for added convenience.



(A)

BASEBOARD

MODERNIZING those two ugly ducklings—the kitchen and bathroom—becomes a simple job with the variety of structural materials now available. Linoleum, tileboard, structural glass, metal tile, clay tile, asbestos, rubber, cork and oilcloth are the many materials now offered in colorful patterns.



materials is tileboard. This is available in sheets 4 ft. wide by 6, 8, 10 and 12 ft. long, the surface of the board being ruled off into 4-in. square tiles. The board comes in various grades of hardness and thickness, the latter being usually 1/8 to 3/16 in. In installing tileboard, loose wallpaper should be removed. A straightedge is used to locate inequalities in the plaster surface, and these should be leveled off. Breaks in the plaster must be cut out and the hole shimmed with strips of wood, as shown in Fig. 4. Check with a level to determine if there is a definite low spot in the room, as shown in Fig. 7, and, if so, the height of the tileboard should be measured at

this point. Strike a level line around the room with a chalkline or straightedge. Cut through the plaster and fit wood blocks in place to take all screw-fastened fixtures, as shown in Fig. 5. Apply the tileboard by coating the wall with the special cement provided as in Fig. 6. Nailing, if required, should be done with 1½-in. No. 16 finish-



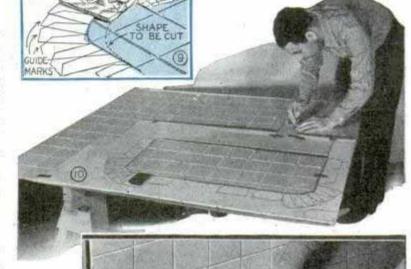
ing nails inserted through the tile scorings, as in Fig. 3. In most cases, plumbing fixtures can and should be removed. Where this is not practical, perfect fitting is done by spiling the shape on a piece of cardboard cut roughly to such size that it will fit around the fixture; then, with a small block of wood, as in Fig. 8, take off the contour. When the cardboard is removed and placed over the tileboard, as in Figs. 9 and 10, the relocation of the guide marks will give an exact cutting line. When cutting at the baseboard, a small

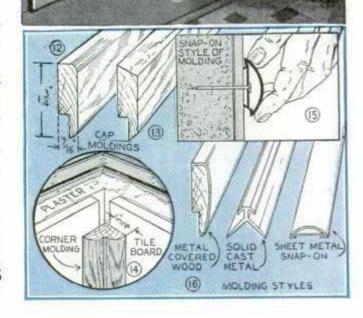
block of wood with a hole drilled through it to take a pencil, can be used to advantage. The tileboard is tacked an inch or so higher than its actual position. Then, with the wood block riding the top of the baseboard, the pencil will mark the exact cutting line, as shown in Fig. 11. The same method is useful in determining the cutting line for corners.

The simplest styles of wood moldings can be made readily in the home workshop to the patterns shown in Figs. 12, 13 and 14. Among ready-made moldings, chromium trim is the most popular. Prices include cap moldings, inside and outside corners, division strips, edging strips, and a number of others. In the simplest kind of job, only the cap molding is required, as shown at the left in Fig. 16. In the center of the same illustration is shown a solid metal outside-corner molding, while Fig. 15 shows the popular snap-on style.

Stainless-steel tiles make an attractive wall surface. These are 4-in. square and are applied by mounting to the wall with cement, as in Fig. 17. Inside and outside corners are worked by scoring the fiber backing of the tile, as in Fig. 18, after which it can be bent over a straightedge. The tiles and other materials fastened with cement should be rolled thoroughly after application, as shown in Fig. 19.

Now, in figuring the cost of installation, the probable life of the material also should be considered. Oilcloth, for example,





makes an attractive wall, but of course does not last as long as some of the more expensive materials. Linoleum is a good material to use when the entire wall is to be covered. Although the initial cost is fairly high, colored glass in various structural shapes undoubtedly makes the smartest and most durable wall surface.

But, barring accidental breakage, such beautiful wall surfaces will practically last a lifetime, always retaining their original luster. Monel-metal tiles or prefabricated metal panels are particularly useful in some rooms and often can be used to

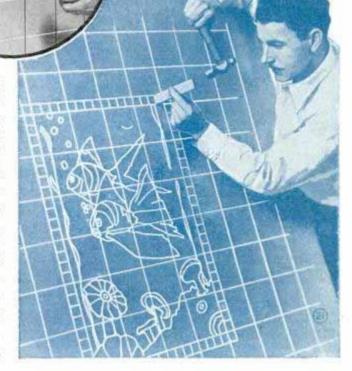


surface of the board. Freehand work can be done with an ice pick with the point rounded over, while straight tile marks can be impressed with a strip of

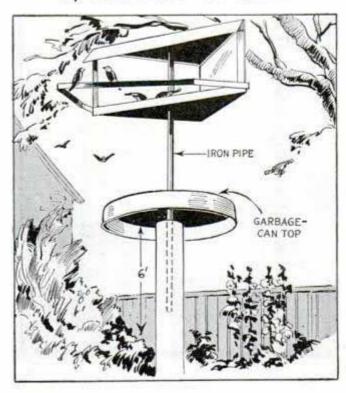
metal, as in Fig. 21. After painting, the tile scorings can be run in with a ball-type lettering pen, Fig. 20, using black, white or colored waterproof ink.

advantage in combination with less expensive coverings. Sheet plastic compressed into asbestos or plywood panels makes sparkling walls. The least expensive way of using any of

these products is to cover the lower portion of the wall only, treating the upper portion with paint or wallpaper. However, the various wallboards are so inexpensive that all-over treatment is usually not prohibitive. Excellent effects can be obtained by using a tiled board for the lower portion of the room and a plain board, with finish already applied, for the upper portion. Currently popular is the horizontal style of treatment as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 where the upper wall is done in plain wallboard with narrow division strips of chromium. Panel effects in any of the softer tileboards can be obtained easily by working any suitable picture directly on the



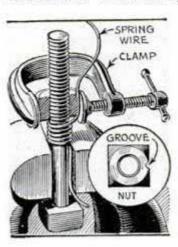
#### Bird Feeder Is Made Cat Proof by Can Lid on Standard



Finding that squirrels were robbing a bird feeder set up in his backyard, one home owner stopped the trouble by mounting a garbage-can lid on the standard of the feeder as shown. The lid is also effective in preventing cats from climbing the post and catching the birds.

#### Winding Small Coil Springs

The next time you have to wind a small coil spring, get a bolt of the proper diameter and file a small V-groove in one side of the nut. Then clamp the bolt in a vise,



placing the end of the wire from which the spring is to be wound between one side of the bolt and one of the vise jaws so that the assembly will be clamped tightly. Run the wire in the groove of the nut and put a C-clamp over it as indicated. Then

using the C-clamp as a handle, turn the nut. This will cause the wire to be wound tightly on the threads. The groove in the nut should be shallow enough to allow the screw of the C-clamp to press against it slightly, causing a slight tension on the wire while winding it.

-Roy Mahal, Chicago.

#### Carbon Paper Removed Easily from Typewritten Copies

The usually difficult job of removing several sheets of carbon paper from a number of typewritten copies, is simplified

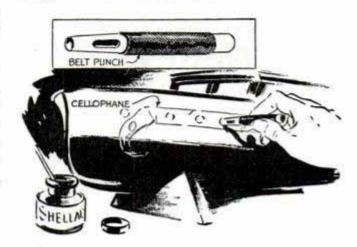
by cutting out a portion of the carbon sheets at the top. Select carbon paper that is a trifle longer than the typewriter paper so that the carbon sheets project a little at the bottom. To separate the carbons from the typewritten



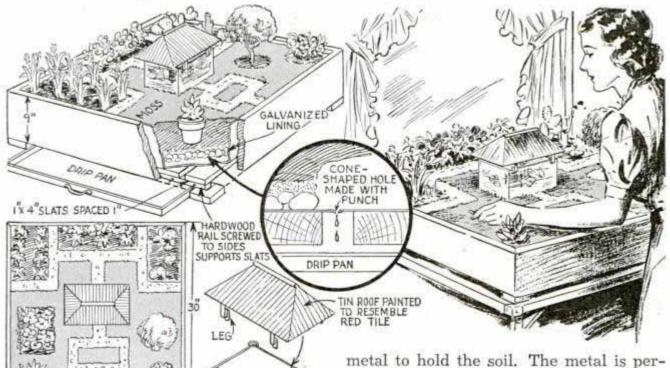
copies grip the latter over the cut-out portion of the carbons, and pull the sheets apart.—John E. Bautsch, Denver, Colo.

#### Portholes for Model Boats

When constructing your next model boat try this simple method of making realistic portholes: Get a narrow strip of "Cellophane" of the desired shade, coat one side with shellac and apply to model so it covers the spots where the portholes are to be located. Using a belt punch, which you can get at any hardware store, press it through the Cellophane by hand and at the same time recess the wood slightly. Then strip off the excess stock.



# Table-Top Garden for Apartment Dwellers



Even with limited space, city dwellers can enjoy plants and flowers indoors with this miniature table-top garden. It can be laid out in formal plan with geometric walks and beds, or it can be developed into an old-fashioned type. The garden comprises a mitered frame with a slatted bottom. The slats and inside surfaces of the frame are coated with tar, after which the frame and bottom are lined with sheet

forated between the slats to permit drainage into a tray, which slips under the frame when the latter is raised on small blocks. To prepare the garden, spread small stones over the bottom, then cover with cinders or sand. Potted plants are used, and rich soil is packed around them. Lay out the walks with clean fine-mesh gravel, and plant grass or Helexine moss in spaces between the pots. An aquarium makes an attractive center piece, and if rectangular in shape, it can be made to resemble a glass house by providing a tin hip roof. Paint the roof to resemble red tile.

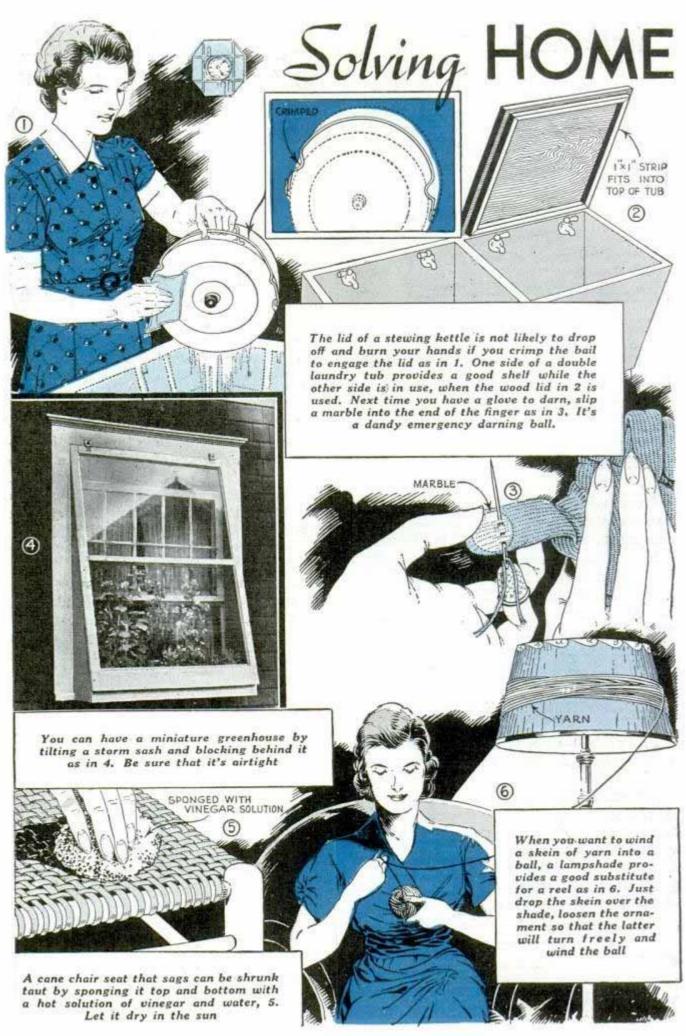
### Tilting Tripod Head for Camera from Electrical Fixture

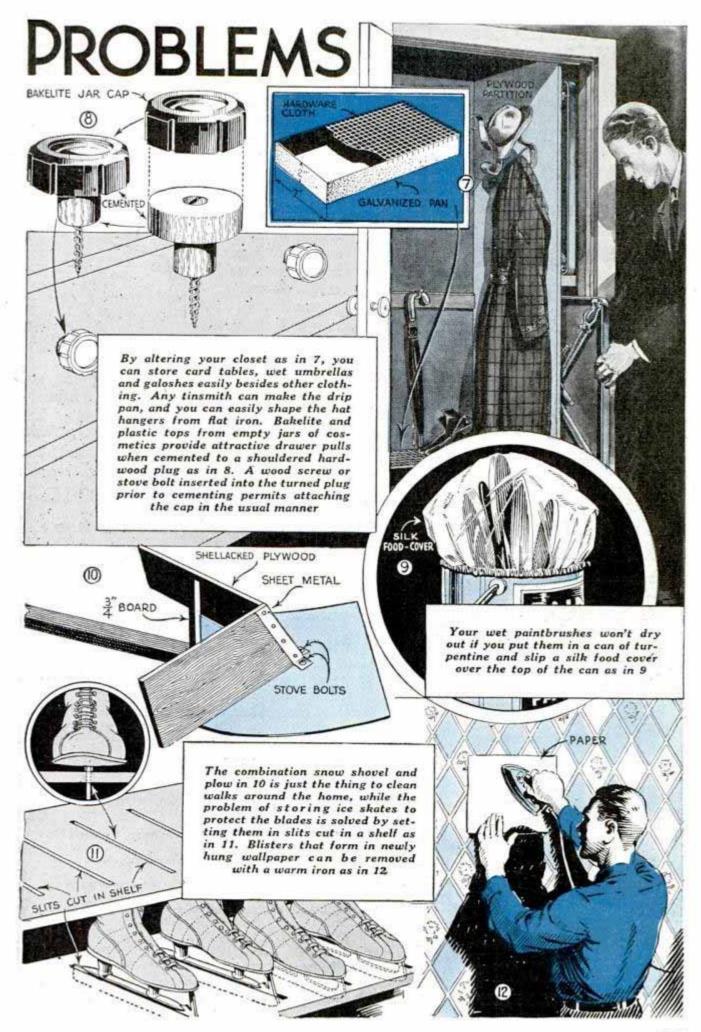
From a ball-and-socket electrical fitting, obtainable at many dime stores, I assembled a tilting tripod head to take small cameras. First saw off the threaded end of the socket, and insert a screw to take the camera. Fill the socket with solder to anchor the screw. Then solder a nut over the large end of the socket to take the tripod screw. The head can be tilted to hold the camera at any angle.

-Arthur Trauffer, Davenport, Ia.

 A back rest for bed patients who wish to sit up is quickly improvised by inserting a washboard between the back of the pillow and the pillow case







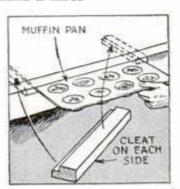
#### Three Units in Outdoor Gym on Single Frame



Located in the back yard of a private home in Lincoln, Nebr., the gym unit shown in the photo not only contains the usual swing, trapeze bars, etc., but also has a basket and backstop for practicing basket ball. The unit is assembled from iron pipe at small cost, and the various parts are arranged so that any one of them can be used without interfering with the others.

#### Muffin Pan Provides Drawer for Small Parts

When you want a bench drawer with a number of small partitions to hold screws, washers, nails and other small parts, why not save time and work by using a muffin pan? It can



be mounted under a bench top by means of two cleats, as indicated, which are rabbeted to take the edge of the tray.

—Lawrence B. Johnson, Spokane, Wash.

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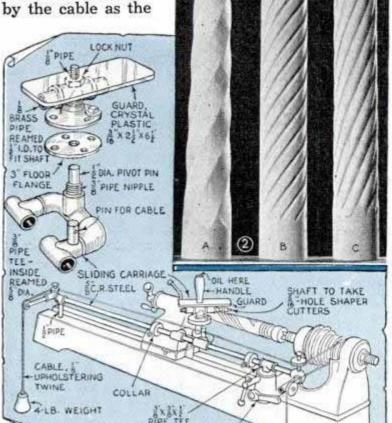
# SPIRALS

SPIRAL twists and rope moldings of all kinds, as well as straight fluting and reeding, can be done with this lathe jig. The unit, Fig. 1, is assembled from standard pipe fittings and consists of a track mounted behind the lathe to support a sliding carriage which carries a shaft, the latter being machined to fit 56-in. hole

shaper cutters. A cable attached to the sliding carriage works over the lathe pulley to furnish the spiral feed, the work being rotated by the cable as the

SPIRAL FLUTING

JIG

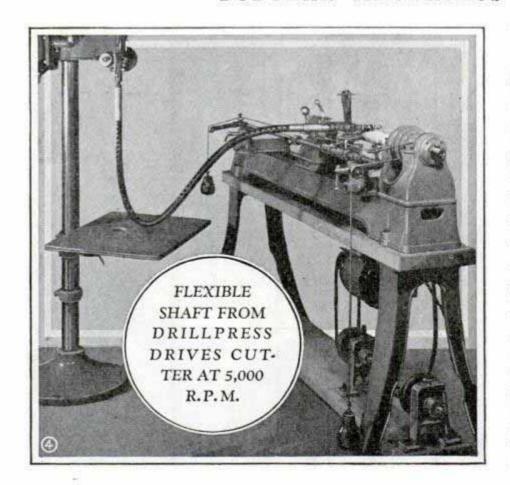


TOOL POST

TO 6-LB. WEIGHT -

Easily Made with this

> carriage is pulled along the track. Fig. 3 shows the essential points in construction. The track is %in, diameter cold-rolled steel, which is fitted into two pipe tees. These are provided with short lengths of ½-in, pipe to fit inside two regular lathe tool posts. The track is adjusted in or out, and up and down as required, in this manner. The sliding carriage is made from flangeless pipe fittings, held together with short nipples. Two 3-in, floor flanges are machined to make the turntable, the upper one of these being fitted to a %-in. pipe tee which supports the shaft bearing. The shaft is machined to ½-in, diameter to fit the bearing and to make connections with a flexible shaft. The latter can be driven with a motor or from your drill press as indicated in Fig. 4. The working end of the shaft is machined and threaded to take standard shaper cutters. Spirals of various pitches can be obtained



by working the cable over any of the four steps of the lathe pulley, the lead of the spiral being equal to the circumference of the pulley over which the cable is run. Various shaper cutters can be used to obtain different effects. In Fig. 2, example A is cut with a straight cutter; B with a round-nose cutter, and C is made with a concave shaped cutter. Combining B and C would give the familiar spiral twist. A depth collar is used to control the depth of cut. Straight fluting and reeding can be done by turning the shaft at right angles to the work and disengaging the cable.

## Wheeled Pot Speeds Job of Filling Cracks in Pavement

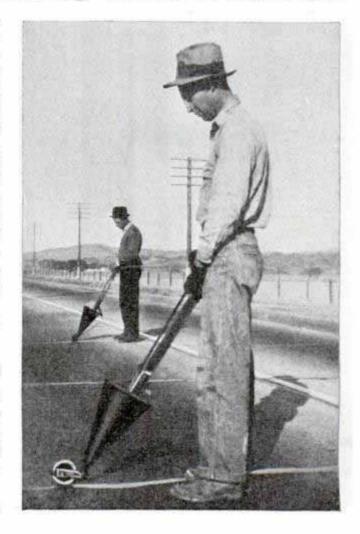
Perfected by a California highway maintenance foreman, this wheeled pot for applying hot asphaltum to cracks and expansion joints in concrete pavements saves time, allows the workman to stand upright and relieves back strain, besides saving considerable time in application. As the weight of the pot is carried on the wheel, the workman can guide it accurately above the crack as he moves forward. A small wheel is attached to the spout end of the pot by means of a flat-iron bracket, the latter being bent to one side so that the wheel is offset about 11/2 in. from the center of the spout. This allows the wheel to run at one side of the crack, yet have the spout end directly over it.

—W. W. Wheatly, Lakeside, Calif.

#### "Cellophane" Used as Shim Stock

I have substituted Cellophane, which is about .001 in. thick, for metal shims where clearances are not critical. It is tough, durable and convenient to handle. I have used it in setting up dies, production machines, tool-room jobs, etc.

—Jack McClintock, Cleveland, Ohio.



#### Thickness Gauge in Key Case



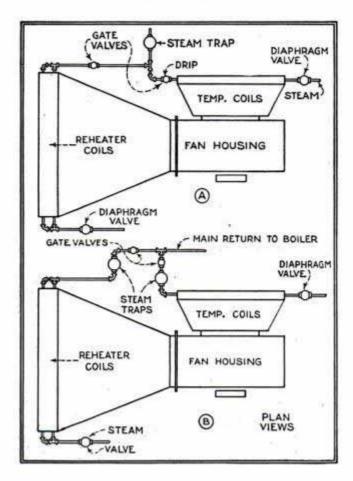
If you carry a thickness gauge in a leather key case, it can be kept oiled so that it will not rust, and the leather covering tends to protect the thin plates. A few drops of fine

oil are applied occasionally to the leather which contacts both sides of the gauge.

#### Steam Traps Prevent Hammer in Air-Conditioning Unit

It sometimes happens that in certain airconditioning installations, a single steam
trap, detail A, fails to carry off condensation fast enough to permit the necessary
rapid action of the automatic valves in delivering new supplies of steam. In some
instances this deficiency will cause severe
hammering. The remedy is to install a
second trap as shown in detail B. This arrangement practically doubles the capacity
for returning condensation to the boiler.

-L. H. Georger, Buffalo, N. Y.



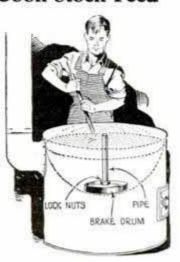
#### Mouth of Grain Sack Kept Open by Spring Holder



The task of holding a grain sack open while an assistant shovels grain into it from a scoop may be simplified with this holder. It consists of a length of steel rod, which is bent as shown to provide two handles and an open loop. The loop portion is inserted in the sack by compressing the handles, which are then spread apart.

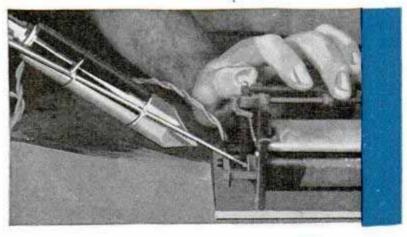
#### Percolator to Cook Stock Feed

All you need for an inexpensive percolator to quickly cook feed for poultry and livestock is a length of pipe and an old auto brake drum. One end of the pipe is threaded and is locked in the opening of the drum by means of a nut on each side.



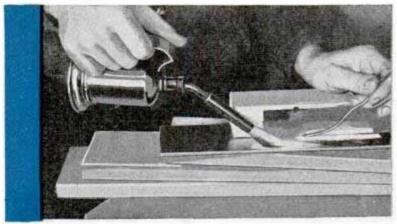
Because the boiling liquid contacts the top of the feed, as well as the bottom, cooking time is reduced and less stirring required.

# Tricks that help you



Where you have only a large 175-watt soldering iron and you are likely to have trouble joining small, intricate work, the problem can be solved often by the method shown at the left. Simply wire a short length of copper rod to the iron, file the end to a diamond point and tin it. Heat from the iron will travel down the rod to the work.

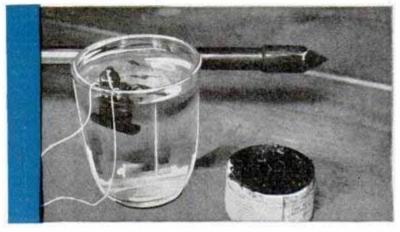
Here two pieces of sheet brass are being soldered together at right angles. The vertical member is attached to a square block of wood with brads. This makes it possible to hold the part exactly at 90 degrees and at the same time, place it in just the position necessary to make a neat, strong joint.





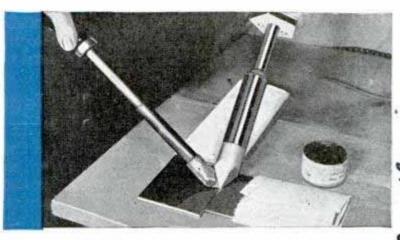
When you have to tin the bared ends of a number of wires, try the setup shown. Just clamp the soldering iron in the vise at an angle, set a small can cover on one of the facets of the iron and drop several small pieces of solder into it. When these have melted, dip the bared ends of the wire into the molten solder.

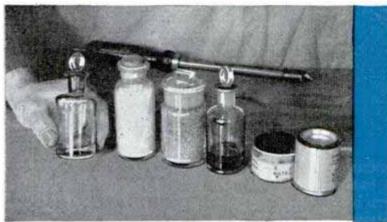
Suppose you wish to solder small parts that have been enameled and do it without charring the enamel. That's easy. Just suspend the parts with wire in a glass of water as shown at the right, leaving exposed only the joint that is to be soldered. The water absorbs and dissipates the heat, protecting the enamel from charring.



# when SOLDERING

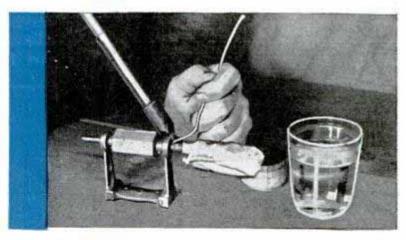
Good soldering may be done only when plenty of heat is applied to the surfaces to be joined. The solder must penetrate the surface of the metal and should not crystallize too soon when cooling. So, when necessary to join pieces of sheet metal with large radiating surfaces, you can prevent heat loss by wrapping the parts in asbestos paper and using two irons.

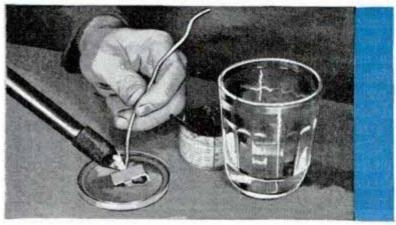




There really is no such thing as a universal flux. Hence, if you have a variety of work to do, you should have a kit containing tallow or rosin for soldering lead, hydrochloric acid for galvanized steel, zinc chloride for gold or silver, Gallipoli oil for pewter, ammonium chloride for gun metal and a can of ordinary commercial paste flux for electrical work.

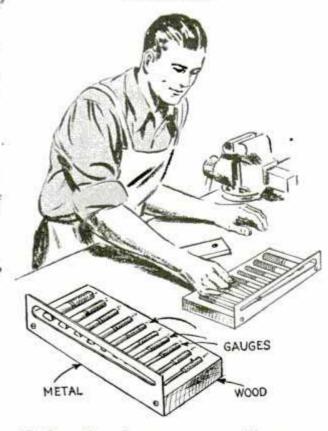
It often happens that a small part must be soldered which is adjacent to other parts already soldered in place. If the heat is not controlled the parts previously joined will be loosened and perhaps fall off. To prevent this, wrap the work in rags soaked in cold water, leaving only the joint exposed. This prevents flow of the heat to parts already soldered.





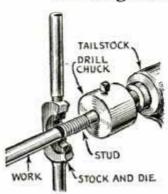
Another handy method of restricting the flow of heat is shown at the left. Here two small parts have been soldered in place and a third piece is to be joined. To prevent softening solder already applied, the work is immersed in water in a shallow container such as a can lid. Only the surface that is to join the third piece is left exposed. In this way the heat will be confined to the joint being soldered.

#### Slot Locates Gauge Positions in Holder



Ordinarily, plug gauges must be examined when they are returned to the case to make sure of the size so that they can be placed in the correct groove. A quicker and better method is as follows: Fasten a piece of sheet metal having a tapered slot to the back of the wood holder. The width of the taper over each groove in the case must be exactly equal to the size of the gauge fitting that groove, from the largest to the smallest. When a gauge is slid along in the slot until it stops, it will be directly over the groove in which it belongs.

#### Starting Stocks and Dies



Small-diameter work can be threaded to standard size in a lathe with stocks and dies, much quicker than with a single-pointed tool. But many such threads are often spoiled because

the die is not started squarely, or because the pressure by the tailstock is too much or too little. To avoid this trouble, a stud or screw of the same size as the work to be threaded is gripped securely in a drill chuck. The die is run on the stud first, nearly to its full depth, and then the tailstock spindle is advanced until the die touches the end of the work. When the stock is turned the die runs off the stud and onto the work correctly.

#### Improving Spiked Calf Weaner

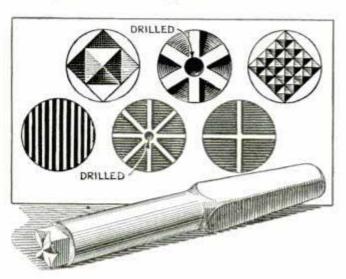
As calf weaners of the spike type are sometimes responsible for injuries to other animals confined to the same enclosure, one farmer follows this simple method to minimize such trouble:



He impales ordinary fuller balls on the spikes so that only a short portion of the points project, which does not defeat the purpose of the weaner.

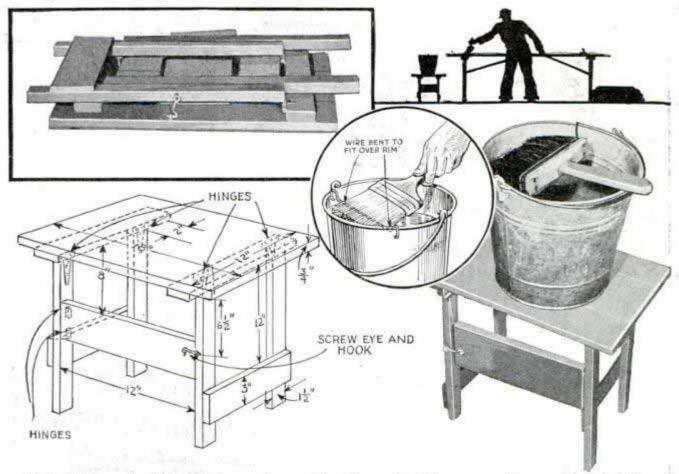
#### **Background Stamps**

Steel used in auger bits is well suited for making background stamps for wood carving, leather and even copper work. The square shank permits easy handling and prevents rolling when laid on the



bench. First cut the bit in two with a hacksaw and then square the end on the side of a grindstone. As an aid in laying out a design in the face, coat it with a copper-sulphate solution. You will find that this steel can be filed very easily.

## Paperhanger's Portable Paste-Bucket Stand



This folding stand for the paperhanger's paste bucket takes very little space when transported from job to job. The top is plywood, and the legs are hinged to it in pairs, one pair being offset so that they will fold over the other pair. The legs are

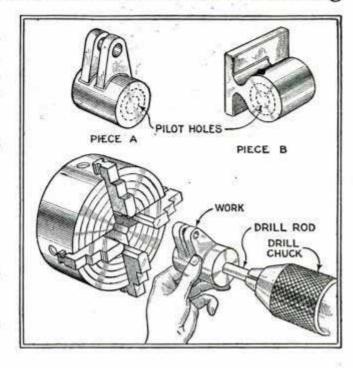
braced with a crosspiece, which is hinged to one leg, and folds flat when the table is closed. Another labor saver is a wire across the mouth of the paste bucket to support the brush as shown in the circular detail.—Loyal R. Jones, Lansing, Mich.

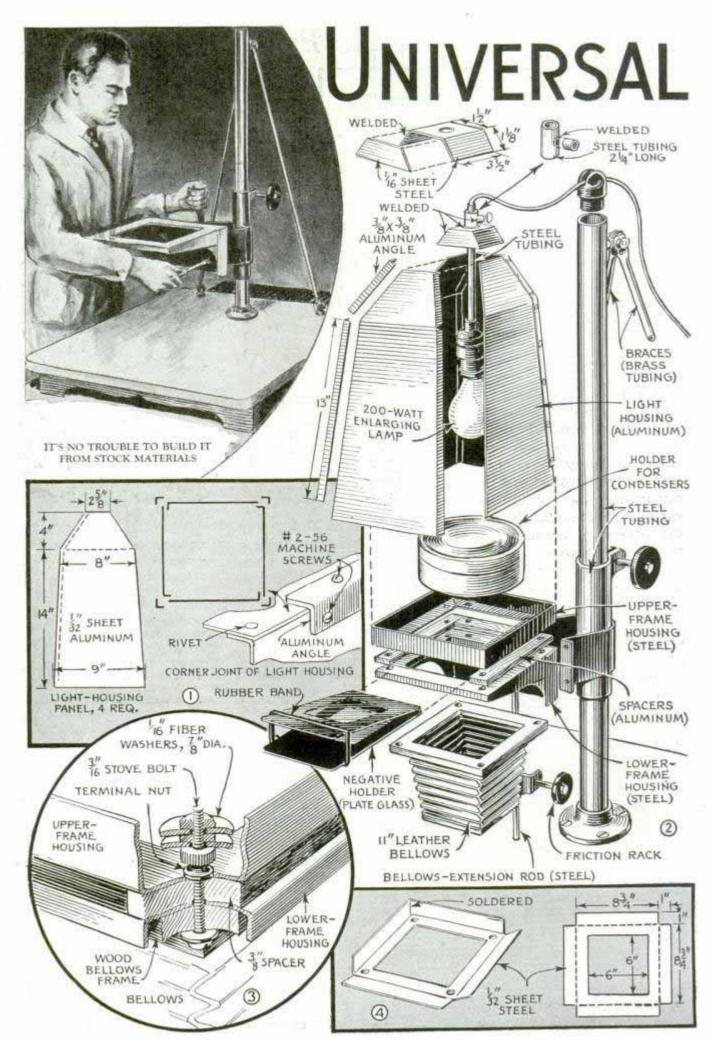
#### Irregular Lathe Work Supported on Center While Chucking

It's a simple job to chuck small irregular-shaped work in a lathe to face or bore it, if the nature of the work permits a pilot hole to be drilled as indicated by pieces A and B. Using a short piece of drill rod held in a drill chuck as a pilot, slip the work over the rod, and move it between the opened jaws of the lathe chuck. While the jaws are being tightened on the work, special care must be taken not to spring the rod out of line.

-Milo Shutt, Homeworth, Ohio.

(Small oil-color brushes may be kept soft between jobs if not thoroughly cleaned by rubbing a little lard or vaseline into the bristles. Rinse this out with turpentine before using. Glycerine will do for brushes used for showcard or tempera color.





# ENLARGER

... has an adjustable light and is designed to hold any one of three sets of lenses and condensers so you can enlarge negatives ranging from 35 mm. to 4 by 5 inches

#### By JOSEPH OTT

THIS photo enlarger has been especially designed for the individual builder, which means that the parts and materials used are easy to get and are inexpensive. The assembly has been so worked out that only a few common tools are needed to build it complete ready for work. As you will see from Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive, the greater part of the assembly calls for sheet metal. This reduces the necessary equipment needed for this work to a rule, a scriber, a pair of tin snips and a few blocks

of hardwood to serve as forming dies. In certain details and in the material list the dimensions given are only close approximations because of the necessity of bending and fitting a number of parts.

Now, to be truly universal in scope, an enlarger should accommodate, with simple adjustments, all film sizes ranging from 35 mm. to the popular large size, 4 by 5 in. This enlarger accommodates these and other intermediate sizes. To cover the three film sizes mentioned, it is necessary to have three different focal-length lenses with three matching sets of condensers, that is, the focal length of each lens should match the focal length of the companion set of condensers. If the enlarger is constructed to take the 4 by 5-in, film with matching focal length lens and condensers, the smaller lenses and condensers can be interchanged easily. For the 1 by 1½-in. or 35-mm, film, a focal length lens of 50 to 75 mm, will be required. Condensers to match should be approximately 3 to 3½ in. in diameter. The intermediate size of 21/4



THE TUBING AND RODS FORMING THE COLUMN AND BRACES MAY BE CHROMIUM PLATED FOR APPEARANCE. THE HOOD IS ALUMINUM AND THE BASEBOARD IS EITHER PLYWOOD OR GLUED-UP STOCK

by 21/4 in. should have a lens of approximately 4 to 4½-in, focal length and condensers to match should be approximately 5½ in. in diameter. For the larger size of 4 by 5 in, the focal length of the lens should be approximately 51/4 or 6 in. and the condensers 8 in. in diameter. The condensers when paired and placed in a frame, with convex sides facing, should give a focal length equivalent to the focal length of the lens. The above condenser diameters give the required focal length for the lenses mentioned. When the focal lengths of condensers and lens match, focusing of the image is sharp and the distribution of light to all corners is uniform. This equal distribution of light is very essential in practice. The reason for having condensers and lenses of various sizes is to shorten the movement of the enlarging unit.

A 1 by 1½-in, film can be placed in the 4 by 5-in, film holder and focused through the 8-in, condensers and 6-in, lens but it would be necessary to raise the enlarger to a height of from 6 to 10 ft, above the



DOUBLE CONDENSERS GIVE HIGH ILLUMINATION FOR CRITICALLY SHARP FOCUS-ING AND SHORT EXPOSURES

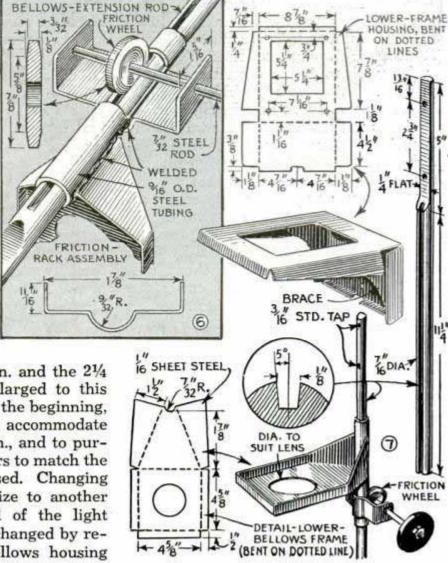
enlarging board. In most cases only a small part of the negative is used and it would be impossible to operate the enlarger because of the height necessary to secure the desired enlargement. This enlarger is designed to operate on an upright 42 in. high, which allows the image of a full 4 by 5-in. film to be enlarged to approximately 20 by 30 in.

and likewise the 1 by 1½-in. and the 2¼ by 2¼-in. films can be enlarged to this same size. It is advisable, in the beginning, to construct the enlarger to accommodate the large-size film, 4 by 5 in., and to purchase the lens and condensers to match the particular size film you used. Changing the condensers from one size to another requires only the removal of the light housing and the lenses are changed by removing from the lower-bellows housing

as in Fig. 12. Flanges of different sizes can be fitted into the housing.

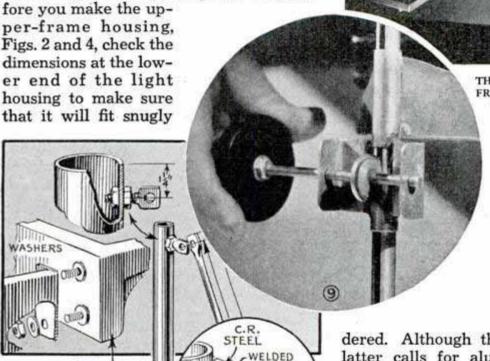
Provision is also made for the use of a ground or opal glass in place of condensers. Although certain advantages are claimed for the ground-glass diffuser, the amount of light necessary is approximately three to four times that required with condensers. Through ground-glass diffusion light falls off rapidly toward the edges and the image is not as sharp as with condensers. However, to reduce the cost of this enlarger, the builder can follow the general construction, using a ground-glass diffuser and a lens of the proper focal length. Later he may add matched condensers and still later other lenses and condensers to fit other films.

Now, in Figs. 5 to 11 inclusive you will find a number of the parts shown in Figs. 1 to 4 detailed separately. Although it is not especially important, proceeding to make the parts in a regular sequence will



help in getting the assembly together properly. Although detailed last, it's a good idea to begin with the enlarging board or base, Fig. 13. This either can be built up as shown, or made from plywood of the same thickness. This done, set up the column and braces, Fig. 10, with the vertical sliding member and the supporting arm in place. Of course, this assembly must include the welds indicated. This means that the handwheel lugs and the supporting arm, Fig. 10, must be welded to the slide before it is slipped over the column. Finish this job with the vertical-slide handwheel, Fig. 11.

Now back to Fig. 1 and from this assemble the light housing complete. Then be-



AND SLOTTED

365"

FRICTION-RACK

BAKELITE

TAP

SUPPORTING ARM, 16 SHEET STEEL

(10)

BODY

28 O.D. STEEL TUBING, WALL

BRACE, BRASS

(2 REQ.)

COLUMN, 42 LONG

VELDED

FLOOR FLANGE

4" DIA.

THE NEGATIVE HOLDER IS MADE FROM TWO PIECES OF PLATE GLASS HINGED WITH TAPE

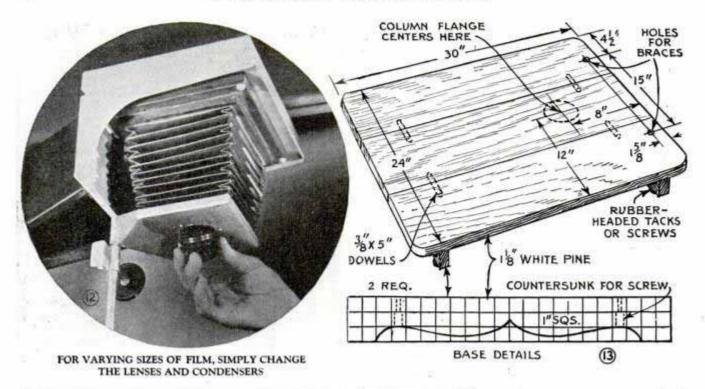
into the upper-frame housing. You may have to alter the size of the latter slightly. With this housing made, follow with the lower housing, Fig. 2, and then cut the spacers to size. All joints on the two housings can be sol-

VERTICAL-SLIDE

HANDWHEEL

(11)

dered. Although the specification of the latter calls for aluminum, you can use hardwood. Now clamp these parts together and drill the four holes for the bolts which join the parts as in Fig. 3. The fiber washers spaced as in Fig. 3 are for the purpose of holding a ground glass should you use one. Only the distance between the holes one way is given in Fig. 7. You have to determine the other spacing by measurement of the upper-bellows frame. Check



#### MATERIAL LIST

Part	Kind of Material	Quan- tity	Size
Enlarging board	Pine	1	1 x 20 x 30 in.
Brace	Pine	2	1 x 4 x 18 in.
Upright column	Steel tubing	1	1/16 x 17/8 x 42 in.
Braces	Brass tubing	2	1/16 x 1/2 x 45 in.
Sliding column	Steel	ī	10 in. long to fit over upright
Extension for housing	Steel sheet	1	1/32 x 51/2 x 20 in.
Bellows	Leather	1	5 x 5 x 11 in. extension
Film holder	Plate glass	2	1/8 x 61/2 x 9 in.
Lower-frame housing	Steel	1	1/32 x 10 x 14 in.
Upper-frame housing	Steel	1	1/32 x 11 x 11 in.
Spacers	Aluminum	3	3% x 1 x 9 in.
Top housing	Aluminum	4	1/32 x 9 in. at bottom 6 in. at top-20 in. long
Corner of housing	Aluminum	4	1/32 x 1 x 20 in.
Top of housing	Steel sheet	1	1/32 x 4 x 4 in.
Upright extension	Steel tubing	1	7/16 x 12 x 1/16 in. wall
Light socket	Standard	1	To fit enlarging bulb
Thumb setscrew	Steel	1	3/16 in. thread— 5% in. knurled head
Bellows-extension rod	Steel	1	7/16 x 161/4 in.
Lower bellows frame	Steel sheet	1	1/32 x 5 x 8 in.
Handwheels	Bakelite	2	1/4 x 3 in. diameter
Rack-wheel shaft	Steel	1	7/32 x 4½ in.
Tapered rack wheel	Steel	1	1/8 x 7/8 in. diameter
Rack spring	Steel	1	1/32 x 1-5/16 x 4 in.
Upright flange	Cast iron	1	1/4 x 4 in. diameter
Anchor bolt	Steel	2	3/8 x 2 in. long
Flanged bolts	Steel	4	5/16 x 2 in. long
Finishing head	Wood-turned	1	To fit diameter of
Rubber rests	Sunk screw and		STATESTAL STATESTAL
	rubber	4	3/4 in, diameter
Diffusion glass	(Or opal glass)	1	3/16 in. thick to fit frame
Extension cord,			
switch and plug		1	12 ft. long
Nuts and bolts	Steel	8	11/2 in. long
Nuts and bolts	Steel	3	3/4 in. long
Rod	Steel	1	3/16 x 4 in.
Rod	Steel	1	1/2 x 4 in.
Housing-assembly screws	Steel	36	Size No. 2-56

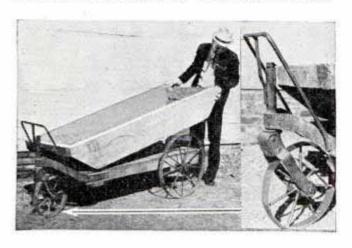
this before drilling any of the holes. Note also that in Figs. 2 and 10 the lips or "ears" of the supporting arm are shown bent in opposite directions. On the original the lips were bent inward but, due to the weld at the tubular slide, it may be necessary to bend them outward as in Fig. 2, when fitting the parts together.

With the assembly at this stage you're ready for the lower-bellows frame and the friction-rack assembly, Figs. 2, 6, 7 and 9. This is a bit more exacting and several machine operations are necessary. It's especially important that the sides of the groove milled in the bellows-extension rod be inclined approximately 5 degrees and that the sides of the friction wheel be machined to correspond. Of course, some filing and trial fitting will be necessary after you cut out the lower-bellows frame or housing, Fig. 7, as the dimensions are only approximate. The complete assembly is shown in Figs. 6 and 9. The rack spring mentioned in the material list is dimensioned in the lower detail in Fig. 6 and shown in place in the upper detail. Bent to the shape shown and drilled, it provides tight bearings for the friction-rack handwheel, Figs. 6 and 11.

It should be noted in Fig. 2 that the enlarging bulb is placed in a socket attached to a tube which is adjustable through the top of the housing. When using condensers it is necessary to place the light far enough above the condensers to give uniform illumination. For this reason, the top of the housing for a 4 by 5-in. film is 18 in. above the negative. The enlarging lamp should be about 250 watts for a 4 by 5-in. film using 8-in. condensers. Without condensers a 1,000-watt light is required. For a 2½ by 2¼-in. film with condensers, a 100 to 125-watt lamp is sufficient and for the 1 by 1½-in. film, approximately 60 watts.

#### Mortar Box on Wheels Is Moved Wherever Desired

A Nebraska farmer uses this portable mortar box, not only for transporting batches of concrete and plaster about the farm, but also for moving liquid feeds. The mortar box is carried on an iron frame fitted with three wheels. The front end as-



sembly comprises a swivel from an old side delivery rake and a wheel from a plow. The frame is welded together, the rear end of the cart being supported on two small cultivator wheels, which rotate on a pipe axle. A handle to pull the cart is attached to the frame directly over the front wheel. As the box is easy to remove from the cart, the latter can be used for other purposes.

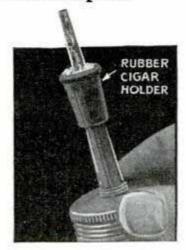
#### Fruit Trees Protected in Winter by Corn Shock



To protect his young orchard against broken limbs due to ice collecting on them during the winter months, and also to keep stock from rubbing against the brittle limbs, one farmer shocked corn around each tree. After setting one layer of bundles about the tree, a double binder twine was tied snugly around the shock to hold it in place.

#### Guard on Oilcan Spout

Light machine oil that has a tendency to run down the spout, when the can is used for numerous applications of oil, can be kept from getting on the can by using this guard. It is a rubber cigar holder with the small end cut out to fit snug-



ly over the spout. A little waste packed inside the holder around the spout absorbs the oil as it runs down and can be renewed from time to time.

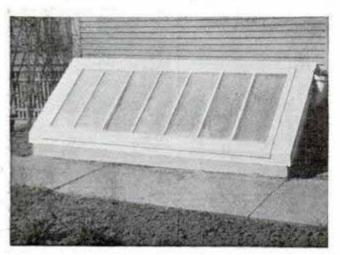
#### 'Funnel' in Center of Hog Trough Avoids Spilling Feed



Spilling of feed when hogs crowd into a trough, was eliminated by one farmer who rigged up this "funnel." It is one-half of a rear-axle housing of an automobile and is mounted in a vertical position on a crosspiece in the center of the trough. The bell end of the housing projects upward, forming a funnel.

#### Cold Frame Built Against House Is Accessible from Basement

Highly convenient because it is accessible from the basement, this permanent cold frame nestles snugly against the house, and is centered over a basement window.



There's no need to go outdoors every day to water the seedlings, as you can do this and adjust the glass cover for ventilation from the inside. The preferred position is on the south side of a house because here the box will receive the most protection and prevailing sunshine in early spring. If the thing is to be a permanent affair, it is advisable to make the front and side walls of concrete rather than wood. The glass panel is hinged at the rear to permit adjustment for ventilation and it may be best to protect the glass with ½-in. galvanized wire mesh.

#### Measuring Shore Line with Wheel

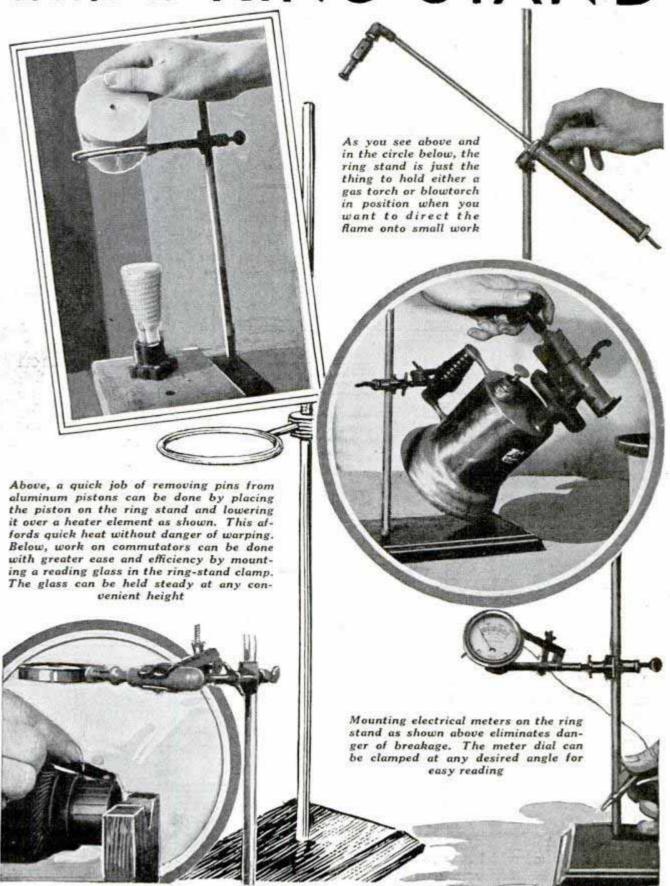
Having land that adjoined a lake and desiring to rent certain footages to summer campers, one farmer used a wheel and a forked stick to take the measurements. A lightweight cultivator wheel was set between the limbs of a forked tree branch



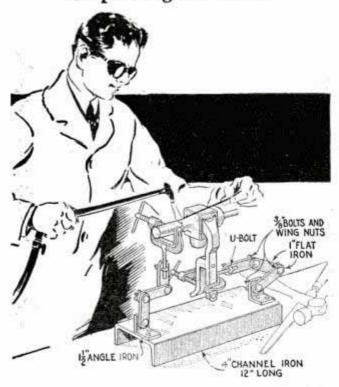
and held in place by a bolt, after which a red cloth was tied to one of the spokes. Counting the number of revolutions of the spoke and multiplying this by the circumference of the wheel gave the actual footage of the shore line.

■Transparent windows in envelopes may be made by rubbing the envelope with a solution of paraffin, 1 oz., and carbon tetrachloride, 4 oz., or some similar solvent.

# What You Can Do with a RING STAND



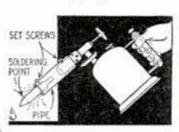
#### Adjustable Jig on Welder's Bench Grips Irregular Work



The problem of holding small irregular work while welding it is solved with this jig, the two arms of which can be adjusted to clamp around any part of the work. A 4-in. channel-iron base carries the arms, each rod consisting of three short pieces of flat iron pivoted at the ends. Each arm carries a C-clamp, which is welded to a short piece of %-in. iron rod, the rods being fastened to the arms by means of U-bolts. These can be loosened to adjust the clamps in any desired position. Also, by loosening the bolts in the arms, they can be adjusted to almost any height or angle.—Clifford Tanner, Cranston, R. I.

#### Torch and Soldering Iron Handy for Roof Work

To save time in changing soldering irons and carrying them back and forth on a



large roofing job, one tinsmith attached the iron directly to the torch. This was accomplished by fitting a soldering point inside of a short

length of pipe, of which the inside diameter was slightly larger than that of the point. Two or three screws fitting tapped holes in both pipe and point held the latter so that there would be a slight space between both. The pipe was then slipped over the flame tube of the torch, where it was securely fastened by a setscrew.

#### Wrist-Strap Mirror Aids Plumber

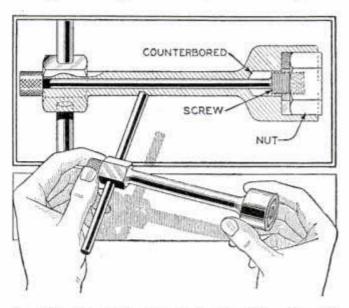
Plumbers, or pipe fitters, whose work includes laying and calking of water mains or soil pipe, will find the work somewhat simplified by the employment of a small pocket mirror, mounted on a wrist strap. By



placing the arm, or wrist, in such position that the mirror reflects the underside of the pipe, the calking of the joint may be observed and many possible leaks avoided.

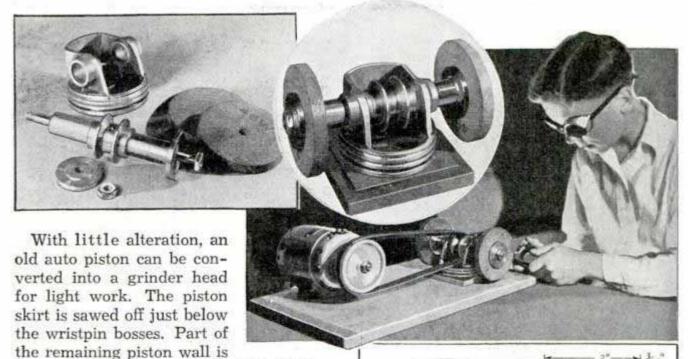
#### Nut Catcher on Box Wrench

Often when a box wrench is used, the nut drops out of the wrench into the work and is difficult to recover. To avoid this, the wrench can be fitted with a nut catcher by drilling a small hole through it

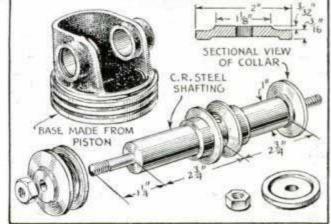


lengthwise and counterboring the boxed end as shown. A rod, with one end threaded to screw into the nut loosely, and having a knurled head on the other end, is all that is required. After the nut has been loosened, the rod is turned to screw the threaded end into the nut.

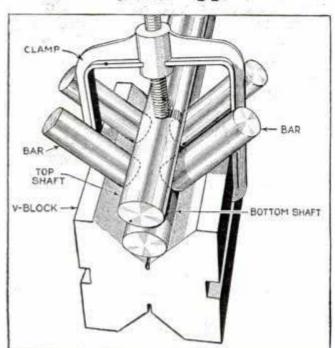
# Altered Piston Forms Sturdy Grinder Head



then cut away to allow for the V-belt drive. By cutting a hole in the base of the grinder it can just as well be driven from underneath. The shaft is a cold-rolled rod with its ends turned down to fit the grinding-wheel holes and threaded for retaining nuts. Collars are made to hold the grinding wheel. The pulley is turned from steel and is held in place with a setscrew. Oil holes are drilled in the shaft bearings. After drilling screw holes in the base, the grinder is ready to fasten to the bench.



## Two Shafts Gripped in Line While Transferring Holes

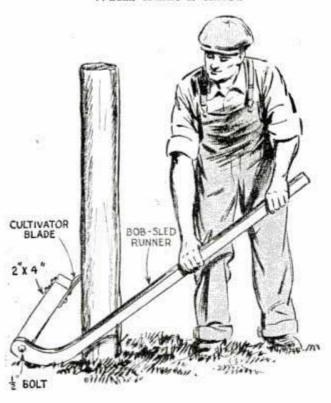


When it is necessary to hold two shafts, one directly above the other, for transferring or marking off drilled holes, the job can be done by using a V-block, a tightening clamp and four short pieces of round rod of slightly less diameter than the shafting. One of the shafts is laid in the V-block, two rods are placed on each side, as indicated in the illustration, and finally the top shaft is laid on these, after which the clamp is screwed down to keep the assembly firmly in position.

—H. Moore, Leeds, England.

Nuts and bolts that are exposed to the weather may be prevented from rusting by applying a coating of asbestos roofing cement to the threads of the bolts before tightening the nuts.

#### Posts Removed Single-Handed with This Puller



To remove fence posts single-handed, one farmer devised this simple puller. It consists of a discarded bob-sled runner to which a short length of 2 by 4-in. wood is pivoted. The free end of the short piece is fitted with a cultivator blade.

#### Large Barn Door Easy to Open by Exerting Pull at Top

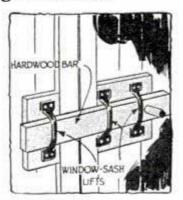
Large, sliding doors are often hard to open because the pull is applied at the lower corner, thus throwing all the weight



of the door on one roller. If a stout strap or rope is fastened to the door at the point indicated, it may be rolled easily as the door is not lifted from either roller.

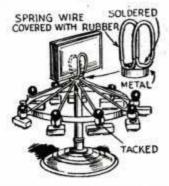
#### Sash Lifts Form Brackets for Sliding Door Bolt

Desiring an inside sliding bolt for the door of his implement shed, one farmer screwed several metal sash lifts across the doors as shown. A hardwood bar to slide through the lifts



freely served as a bolt, and a wood pin driven tightly into a hole in the bar provided a hand grip for operating the bolt.

#### Stamp Pad Stored on Rack

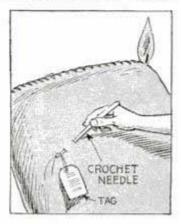


When a rotating rack is used to store rubber stamps, why not provide a clamp on the rack to hold the stamp pad? A clamp can be shaped from a piece of spring

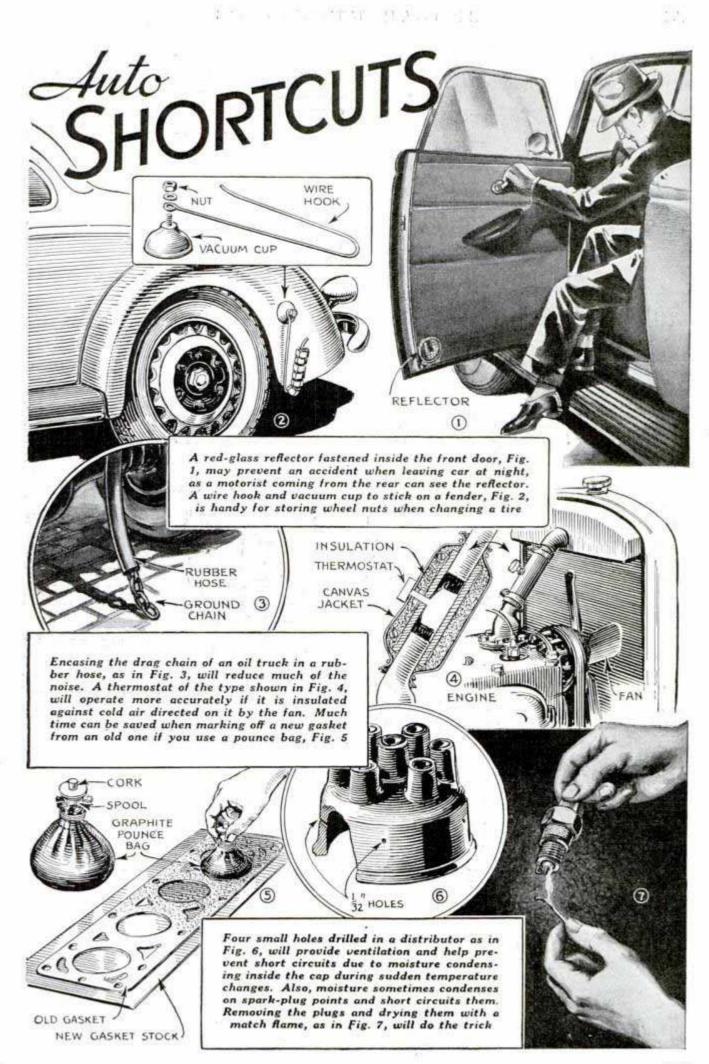
wire and soldered to the top end of the rack standard. If desired, the wire can be covered with a piece of rubber tubing.

#### Crochet Hook Fastens Sack Tags

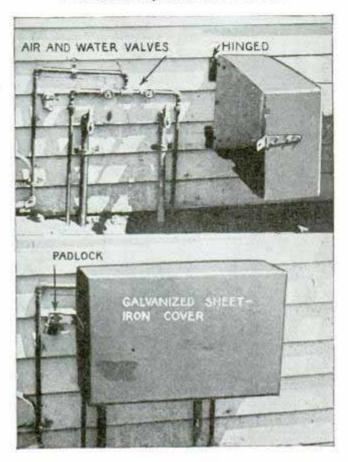
A Wisconsin grain and seed dealer, who found it difficult to thread a sack needle when stitching shipping tags to filled bags, used a crochet hook for the purpose. The hook is forced through the side of



the bag to engage the string or wire of the tag and pull it through the cloth.

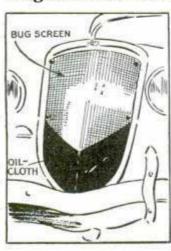


#### Valves Outside of Filling Station Locked by Metal Cover



Having the air and water valves located on the outside of the building, the owner of one filling station hinged a galvanized, sheet-iron cover to the wall of the building so that it can be swung around over the valves and locked. This prevented anyone from tampering with them at night after the station had been closed. The next morning it was only a matter of a minute to unlock the cover and swing it around to expose them.

#### Bug Screen Serves as Winter Front



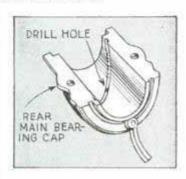
If you have a bug screen on the radiator grill of your car, you can improvise a winter front quickly at practically no cost. Just get a piece of oilcloth, cut it to the shape of the screen and stitch it to the latter. If desired, you can

slit the oilcloth down the center a few inches from the top to provide flaps. A couple of snap fasteners will enable you to open or close the flaps as desired.

-Charles Ahlgrimm, Bettendorf, Iowa.

#### StoppingOil Leak in Main Bearing of Model-A Ford

Model-A Fords that have a tendency to leak oil through the rear main bearing often can be repaired as follows: Drop the oil pan, remove the bearing and drill a hole

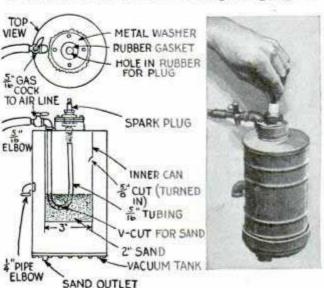


through it from the underside to break into the oil groove cut into the babbitt. This allows excessive oil to drain back into the crankcase instead of being forced back into the flywheel housing.

-H. Thomas Winston, Claremont, Va.

#### Sandblast Spark-Plug Cleaner

Here's a spark-plug cleaner that does the work in short order, and it can be assembled from an old vacuum tank and odd parts that are available in most any garage. First remove everything inside the tank. Then cut a hole in the bottom to take the top of a screw-top can, insert a U-shaped piece of tubing and connect it with the air hose by means of a gas cock. File a notch in the tube at the bottom of the U and adjust the free end so that it will be about ½ in. from the bottom of a spark plug in-

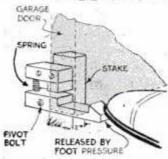


serted in top of the screw cover. Make a small cut in the side of the can and push it in to provide an opening for the air to escape. Now solder the can to the vacuum tank. Also attach an elbow to a hole in the side of the tank for the air to escape from it. Cut a 1-in. hole in the screw top of the can, stretch a piece of inner tube over it and fasten it in place with a metal washer attached to the cover with stove bolts. Make a small hole in the rubber to take the end of a spark plug tightly. Sand that escapes into the tank can be removed and put back into the inner can.

#### Dirt Between Fender at Joints Causes Squeaks

Squeaks sometimes result at the joints between the car body and its fenders, or similar places. The usual cause for this in the case of older cars, is road grit, which works into the fabric strips used between the parts. It is helpful to loosen the bolts at the joint a few turns, and then wash out the dirt by a stream from a garden hose. In old cars, when sections of the antisqueak material wear or rot out, pieces of heavy gasket paper placed between the metal surfaces make a cheap repair.

#### Garage Doors Held Open by Latch Tripped with Your Foot



Much easier to use than a hook to hold garage doors open, this latch a utomatically grips the door and is released with your foot. The latch is pivoted to

a stake driven into the ground, and consists of a pivoted block beveled at one end and notched to accommodate the door. A coil spring causes the latch to bear up against the door while holding it. Pressing down on the beveled end of the latch with the foot frees the door.

¶Tar spots on the enamel of an automobile or motorcycle can be removed without danger to the surface by rubbing them with a piece of cloth dampened with carbon bisulphide.

#### Blackboard in Top of Truck Cab Speeds Up Deliveries



To avoid any unnecessary driving on his delivery route, one truck driver writes the addresses of the various stops on a blackboard mounted above the windshield where they are seen easily. Before starting, he runs through the orders and plans the shortest route to the various stops, which are then recorded on the blackboard.

#### Headlight Lens Removed Safely with Gloves and Vacuum Cups

To reduce the possibility of breaking a head-light lens when removing it, one mechanic rigged up a pair of gloves for the purpose by attaching four small vacuum cups to the palm of each glove. The cups

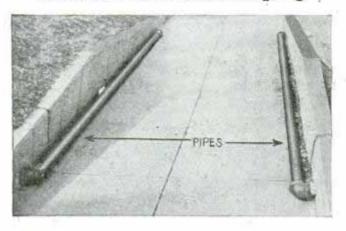


gripped the glass so that there was less chance of it slipping out of his hands.

#### Wanted-More Auto Kinks!

Simple things that will add to the convenience of driving and touring—easily made repairs for minor troubles and disorders of cars—precautions that will avoid troubles—these are some of the many things motorists would like to know about. Possibly you have devised something for your car or garage that will be helpful to thousands of others. Just describe the idea briefly but completely, illustrate it with a sketch or photo and let's have a look. Perhaps it fits in with our needs and if so, a check will be sent promptly. Avoid old practices, ideas that are of use only occasionally or those that involve too much trouble and expense. Ideas must be found workable by actual practice. Address Technical Editor.

#### Pipe Guards on Walled Driveway Prevent Cars from Scraping



The driveway shown in the photo had to be sunken considerably to lessen the slope from the street to the garage and necessitated concrete retaining walls. As the driveway was quite narrow, there was danger of scraping hub caps, tires and fenders. To prevent this, 3-in. iron pipes were installed as shown to keep the wheels away from the walls.

#### Running on Bad Connecting Rod

When a connecting-rod bearing on my car burned out several miles from the nearest garage, I immediately disconnected the spark-plug wire over the damaged rod to eliminate explosions against the piston with consequent hammering on the crankshaft. This minimized the danger of damaging the bearing surface of the latter, besides greatly reducing noise as I proceeded at a slow rate of speed to the garage.—John P. Crandell, Urbana, Ill.

# Plan-of-the-Month—A New Service

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articles with hand tools, without previous experience Send coupon and 10c in stamps for Craftplan of COLONIAL COFFEE TABLE DAILY USEFULNESS Of practical, everyday value in any home, it's a worthwhile project if you want your share of a home workshop.

This satin-finished coffee table stands 18 in. high and has a 22-in, top to which four tapered legs are pegged

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interesting and valuable recreation possible from

#### THE COST IS SLIGHT

Complete, easy-to-follow plans including photos, material list and full instructions on building simplified but worthwhile

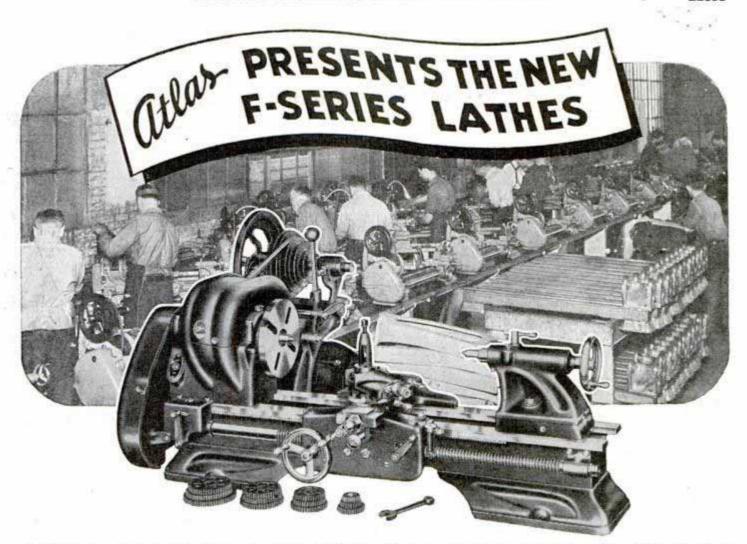
> As you need only a few pieces of maple, some stain and shellac, the cost of the table is very little besides the time required to do the worktime that you will want to spend in the pleasures of woodworking at home.

#### CRAFTPLAN SHOWS HOW

You don't have to be able to read blueprints to understand the Craftplan. It includes simplified, easy-to-follow pictures showing all details and sizes, gives step-by-step directions for assembling; describes jigs to bore holes accurately; explains how legs are tapered and top is rounded so that even beginners can do it. Also contains material list and instructions for finishing.

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Why not use your spare time to make simple things like this that find a ready market? Others have done so! Many a small but profitable business was started in a home workshop.



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It's the only lathe, too, with complete V-belt drive, quick-change countershafts, compact controls, precision ground bed ways, custom-built spindle bearings, extra power for heavy jobs, and many other modern features at the low price of \$104.75 for the 10" lathe with horizontal countershaft (complete as shown less motor) or \$99.75 for the vertical countershaft model.

Ask your dealer to show you the new Atlas and send today for the big new 1939 Atlas Catalog.



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#### Picture Your Family

(Continued from page 47)

history book—especially the youngsters. Through the camera, you can watch them grow from babies to school age, 'teen age, maturity. Pictures of their hobbies, their activities, their friends, all provide rich material for memory.

Even ordinary household activities offer chances for good pictures. A picture of yourself repainting an old table, your wife dressing the small daughter for Sunday School, even a snapshot (with the aid of a "self-timer") of you both washing dishes



Letters are important chapters in a family history.

Their arrival or posting makes a "newsy" picture

—all these are parts of daily life; and these snapshots in future years will call back many a happy incident.

Don't overlook the pets, for they are very much a part of the family, and appealing animal snapshots add spice.

One caution: Have an idea behind each picture. Make each tell a story. A snapshot of your son standing beside the house and smiling is hardly material for the book. But a snapshot of the boy repairing his bicycle is a "news" picture—the sort that makes the record interesting.

(Continued to page 116A)



# CHRISTMAS CATALOG

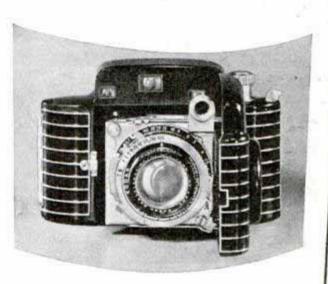


kodak retina II (left) with anastigmat f.2.0 lens. 1/500 Compur-Rapid shutter. Coupled range finder. Body shutter release. Price, \$140. Kodak Retina II, f.2.8, \$115. (Prices include sportsman's field case.) Both models load with a wide range of Kodak Film, including Kodachrome for gorgeous full color. \$140

Retina, with Kodak Anastigmat EKTAR f.3.5 lens. Shutter, 1/500 Compur-Rapid. Film-centering mechanism. Exposure counter. \$4850

Lens, Kodak Anastigmat EKTAR f.2.0—extra-fast, super-corrected. Shutter, 1/500 Compur-Rapid. Built-in military-type range finder linked with lens mount gives hairline focus instantly. Film-centering device locks film accurately in position for each exposure. New low price includes field case.

KODAK BANTAM FAMILY also includes Kodak Bantam f.4.5 at \$27.50 and Kodak Bantam f.5.6 at \$16.50. All three models load with full-color Kodachrome Film. Lower priced Kodak Bantams, for black-and-white pictures only, include the f.6.3 model at \$9.50 and f.8 model at \$4.75.



#### NEW KODAK 35 FAMILY (left)

A really outstanding group of new precision miniature cameras that are priced impressively low. Fast lenses—fully corrected for color—and accurate shutters. For critical results in black-and-white, or full-color Kodachrome. Kodak 35, with f.5.6 lens and 1/100 Kodex shutter (illustrated), \$18.50; with f.4.5 lens and 1/150 Diomatic shutter, \$29.50; with Kodak Anastigmat Special f.3.5 lens and 1/200 Kodamatic shutter, \$39.50.



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ONLY EASTMAN Makes the KODAK

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(Continued from page 114A)

Oftentimes, phases of the family history can be told in a short series of pictures better than in one. Your history of Christmas, 1938, could well begin with the decoration of the tree, and the hanging of stockings, then show the children discovering their gifts, close-ups of delighted faces as they examine new possessions, and shots of them playing with the new sled or train. Christmas dinner could well be pictured, and the holiday series might end with a shot of exhausted youngsters sound asleep, toys clasped in their arms.

No specialized equipment is needed to keep a family history, but a fairly good camera—say, one with a lens at least as rapid as f.6.3—is a great help. With such a camera, you can use a cable release and self-timer, which enables you to get into your own pictures. The extra speed of the lens is an advantage in taking night snapshots, with two or three inexpensive amateur photo bulbs providing illumination. And if you can get a miniature camera with ultrarapid lens, you can take these home snaps with no special illumination, just room light.

Make it a point to file negatives carefully, because in later years you may wish to have new prints made for a more elaborate and finished presentation. The value of these family books increases as years pass, and if one should be damaged it is a serious loss unless the negatives are available for reprinting.

If you are a movie-maker, you can keep your family history in movies as easily as in "still" form. Indeed, recently developed home equipment enables you to obtain enlarged still pictures from your movie frames. The movies can be in full-color, and the prints in black-and-white.

With movies, dramatic stunts are possible which add an extra touch of interest. For example, take one twenty-five-foot sequence of your boy or girl each year for a number of years. Splice these sequences together in proper order—and in a few minutes of projection time, you can watch the child grow up right on the screen!

A family history in pictures provides a rich storehouse of memories that can be obtained in no other way. The longer the maker lives, the more value they have.

# "Minnies" Supply Punch to Movies

(Continued from page 69)

all vest-pocket cities was made for the film musical, "Just Imagine." It was a glimpse of New York of the future—a \$200,000 glimpse. Housed in a dirigible hangar, the reproduction covered seventy-five by 225 feet and some of its two-hundred-story skyscrapers were forty feet high. There were nine levels for subway and elevated trains; helicopters, dirigibles, and airplanes could discharge passengers at any building level, and streets and office buildings were perfectly illuminated.

Incredible action is achieved in the miniatures. Noah's ark in "Green Pastures" was loaded with small wooden animals that moved on a concealed track. The siege of the town of Port Royal in "Captain Blood" was made in this same way. The tiny town was built along the bank of Warner Brothers' tank and a fleet of battleships set afloat on the pond. When cameras were trained on the scene, fire spat from tiny cannons protruding from portholes. Shore guns retaliated and townspeople were seen running for cover. The citizenry were fig-

ures mounted on tracks and moved by wires, and the firing was done from an electric panel by an operator at the director's elbow. Electric wires led from each point where an explosion was to take place and it was just a matter of pressing a button to set off a gun or powder mine. The effect of shells showering about the warships was gained by snipers peppering the water with rifle shots from a perch high above the set.

Film experts regard James Basevi as Hollywood's ace man on special effects. He was responsible for the hurricane in the Nordhoff-Hall thriller, "Hurricane." The island of Manukura, which in the story is inundated by the sea whipped into wrath by the hurricane's force, was built. At one end of the island was the miniature village of Motu Tonga to be destroyed by the force of the wind and sea.

Coconut palms were made with trunks of lead and fronds of copper. Batteries of wind machines, four on each of the two

(Continued to page 118A)



... such simplicity of operation ... such economy!

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Universal Camera Corporation New York - Chicago - Hollywood

UNIVERSAL CAMERA CORP. FREE BOOKLET Dept. 213, New York City Send me illustrated booklet "INSURED MOVIES," which describes the New 1939 UniveX Ciné "8" and its sensational guarantee. NAME

# TREAMLINED LATHE AT SENSATIONAL

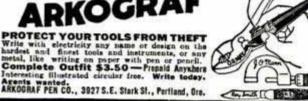


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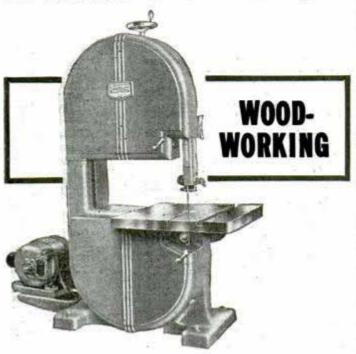


produced in your own workshop allow you to design and build your own GAS-OLINE ENGINES, STEAM ENGINES, STATUARY, ART OBJECTS, SPECIAL TOOLS, NEW INVENTIONS, ETC. You can also make forgings and case harden steel. Your shop is not complete without a FOUNDRYETTE. Three sizes are available capable of making bronze castings of 1½, 3, and 6 pounds weight, aluminum, copper, brass, etc., in proportion to specific gravity. Clean scrap metal suitable for use. Each outfit includes a complete Blast furnace.

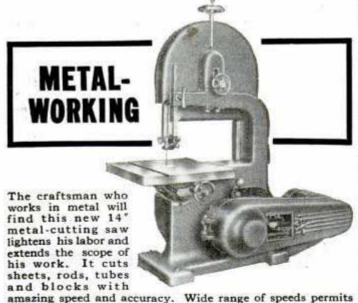
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amazing speed and accuracy. Wide range of speeds permits cutting molded plastics or hard die steel. Speed range with recommended motor, 175 to 4630 feet per minute; eight speeds, provided by positive geared unit.

When you see these new saws and get the low prices, you'll appreciate the value built into them. New 1939 catalog on request. Walker-Turner Co., Inc., 119 South Avenue, Plainfield, N. J.

DRIVER Engineered POWER TOOLS

(Continued from page 116A)

sides of the 100-foot tank, provided the 110-mile-an-hour gale that devastated the island and supplied the realism in the close-ups when the principals were shown in the grip of the hurricane. Human wave-makers with large boxlike paddles helped churn up the waves.

Ship models usually are powered by a cartridge of compressed air with a vent beneath the surface or by Dry Ice that creates gas as it evaporates. The special effects men have another problem to contend with when they are working with ship models. If you have ever watched a toy



Cheesecloth and sponge go into the making of tiny trees for movie miniatures

boat on a lake, you have probably noticed it rolls and pitches much more rapidly than is the case with a real liner. Consequently, the motion of the model ships must be slowed down to the speed of their full-sized counterparts. A quantity of glycerin sometimes is placed in the water tanks to make the roll of the water appear heavier and more natural.

When the script calls for airplanes to fly in fog or close to mountains or tree tops, models generally get the assignment. In a small racing plane rigged for a breakaway, a crash in the "mountain" on which it is resting, the ribs and wing sections are complete in every detail so they look genuine when they shear off in the crash. The trailing edges of both wings next to the fuselage have small pieces of lead inserted in them to give a smashing effect at the moment of impact.

# New Jobs on the High Seas

(Continued from page 43)

The age of hardtack and salt pork has gone and crews today are fed the same fare as passengers, possibly without some of the trimmings. Refrigeration has done away with the old practice of carrying livestock "on the hoof" on deck although chicken coops and pigpens may still be seen on some foreign vessels. Food that old sailors would hardly recognize is on the daily menu. For a coast-to-coast voyage a freighter is apt to carry seventy-five gallons of fresh milk and twenty-five gallons of buttermilk in the refrigerator rooms, as well as large assortments of meat. The cook, making up his requisitions, often includes asparagus, green peas, endives and what other fresh vegetables



Servicing a liner. Water and half a dozen different oils and fuels are taken aboard as soon as liner docks

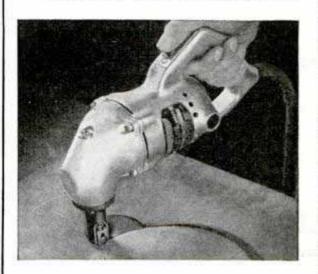
may be in season. His department serves bottled pickles, olives, relish, onions, horseradish and assortments of fresh jams and jellies. The crew usually has a choice of ice creams for dessert.

Pay at sea starts at around \$55 per month in addition to board and room. This is raised to \$72.50 per month after a man serves a year as ordinary seaman and passes an examination covering such subjects as deck duties, lines, knots and gear. He graduates as an able-bodied seaman although three years must pass before he obtains a full certificate. The A.B.'s keep the lookouts and steer the ship, as well as doing other work. The next promotion is quartermaster, who assists the mates.

With diligence and ability a man may graduate to third or fourth mate three or four years after he first ships and start

(Continued to page 120A)

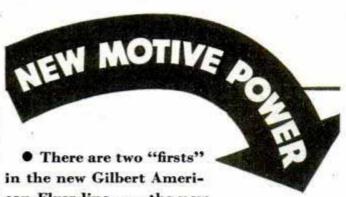
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# GILBERL AMERICAN FLYER TRAINS

MADE BY THE A. C. GILBERT COMPANY
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### (Continued from page 119A)

drawing \$135 per month. Getting his mate's ticket, however, is not the whole battle, for jobs are scarcer as he climbs the ladder. First mates draw an average of \$195 per month and masters' salaries are arranged in conference.

In the engine-room department a man may start as wiper, graduate to fireman at the end of six months, and then to water tender or oiler. On each step up the line he has to pass examinations. Wages are higher in the engine room than on deck. A chief engineer draws an average of \$275 per month.

Men in the steward's department on passenger ships work slightly longer hours



Gear and brake used for snubbing lifeboat as it is swung away from ship and lowered

and their wages are about the same as those on deck. Both members of the crew and the licensed officers have to pass rigid examinations in the shipping office of a port before they can be promoted to a higher rank. Oil tankers pay better than most cargo and passenger ships because the service is considered more hazardous and because the tankers are noted for short "turn-arounds," spending only a few hours in port before starting the return voyage.

¶Names and addresses of manufacturers and dealers in articles described in this magazine will be furnished by our Bureau of Information upon request accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelope.



new that it is practically without competition. This alone should enable you to make really BIG MONEY. Hotels, homes, clubs, office buildings offer tremendous pos-sibilities. Our new DETERGER washes upholstered furniture, electrically right in your customer's home, with a new soapless soap whipped into DRY suds. No liquid touches the fabric, therefore the furniture is ready for use soon after cleaning. We have helped hundreds of men get into business for themselves with our automatic equipment. The U. S. Government and many of the world's largest hotels use our machines,

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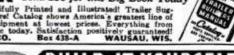
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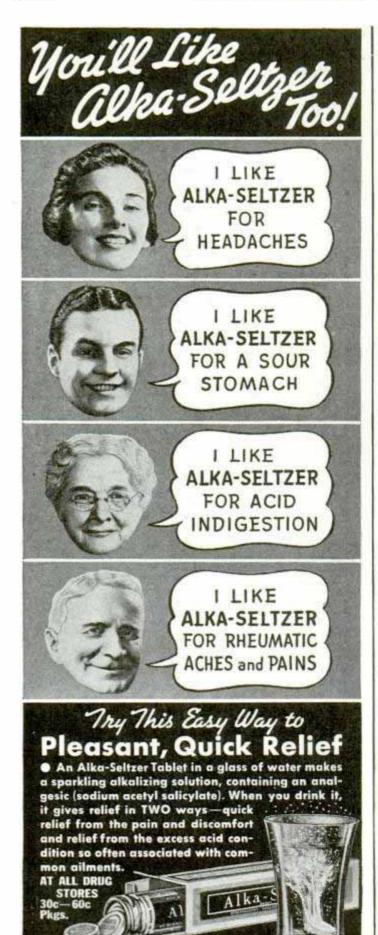
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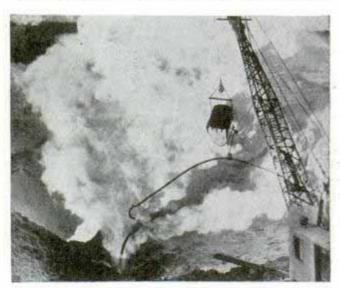
Stephenson Laboratory, 1 Back Bay, Boston, Mass.

# Taming Wild Wells

(Continued from page 93)

sition on a carrying apparatus which can raise, lower, or tilt the stack. His method is to slide this seventeen-ton machine up to the casing head of the wild well, lower the stack and weld it to the casing. Then heavy valves attached to the bottom of the manifold are closed slowly. When they have been shut they are left upon the casing and the manifold is pulled away. The well is under control. Very simple.

But in the present instance it was not so simple. Before the manifold could be lowered to take in the entire flow of gas, part of the gas belched out at the bottom of the



Dredge trying to catch piece of broken casing with hook to pull it from crater

stack, enveloping the rig in flames and making it impossible for anyone to get near, even in an asbestos suit, to lower the stack.

So an irrigation canal was diverted into the crater until water was almost to the top of the manifold. But flames came up through the water and soon it was boiling. The crew rigged a boat with tin shields and rowed onto the boiling lake with a hook to try to catch the chain that would lower the manifold. Some under-water projection stove in the bottom of the boat and almost pitched the men out. With boiling water flooding into their craft they raced for shore, reaching it just as the boat capsized.

But the fighters were not stumped. With the crater full of water the manifold was pulled away from the casing. The gas roared unhindered through the lake, sucking up water as it went into the air. The

water mixing with the gas raised its point of combustion, the fire wavered and wavered and then snuffed out.

When the crater was empty again, the manifold was ready to go in once more, this time with a long tapering swedge that would go inside the casing and wedge fast. The swedge went down into the casing and the stream of gas shot out of the top of the manifold. But suddenly gas began bubbling out of the ground near by. Evidently a leak had occurred underground. The swedge and manifold could do no good now. Frantically the men worked to loose their machine from the casing before the explosion that was sure to come. All at



Asbestos-clad men making cable fast to casing at the bottom of the crater

once some inner sense told them that it was time to go. And they went, running for their lives. Behind them the bottom of the crater let go with a tremendous roar and fire reached out over the crater rim. The concussion tumbled the men endover-end, but only one was burned about the face.

From a distance they looked at the well, once more a tremendous furnace, but this time with \$2,000 worth of equipment at its bottom. Wearily they admitted defeat and went away.

But the well had not yet won the battle. M. M. Kinley, probably the most experienced fire fighter in the game, decided that it was not yet a hopeless proposition. He came with his crew and with high-pressure hoses washed away the earth from Patton's wrecked machinery, then removed it with tractors. Next his men carried in a can filled with forty quarts of nitroglycerine jelly and placed it beside the fire.

(Continued to page 124A)



They will have to get out of the way when you come down the hill with one of these new streamlined Flexible Flyers.

They sail along like nobody's business, ride bumps like a new car, sweep around curves like a racer. They're the smoothest, speediest, safest sleds ever made... just what you want for Christmas!

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Show it to the folks and tell them why you want this streamlined beauty for Christmas. You'll be the king of the snow trails this year!

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J & H Metal Products Co. 5 Commercial St. Rochester, N. Y.

### (Continued from page 123A)

Heat could have exploded it before they regained the crater edge, but it didn't. When the charge was exploded electrically, the concussion snuffed the fire.

The men went back into the crater when the well had cleaned itself, dug down along the casing with hydraulic diggers, and poured tons of cement about the pipe. Then they cut off the battered top of the casing, and on a cable strung from side to side of the crater they ferried in a capping manifold. It was jockeved over the casing, fastened solidly to stay bolts in the concrete.

When four flow lines had been laid up out of the crater to separators for extracting the oil from the gas and had been attached to valves on the manifold, the main valve was closed. The gas then passed out of the crater through the flow lines and deposited its oil in storage tanks at a rate of four hundred barrels a day. The dry gas shot out of a vertical pipe high into the air in the middle of a deserted field where it could do no harm. The wild well had been tamed.

# The Latest in Aviation Radio

(Continued from page 85)

mounted above a bed of wires that act as reflectors in directing the signals upward.

The next step in the program will be the use of high-frequency radio sets in passenger transport cockpits next summer for talking with the control towers of airports while the planes are in range. Shortwave radio signals travel in straight lines and communication is virtually limited to line-of-sight distances. The new sets will be tiny in comparison with the equipment used for working on longer wave lengths and will require much less power.

With the aid of short waves, safe landings in fog so thick the pilots can't see their wing tips are expected to be ordinary routine within a year. United Air Lines pilots have made thousands of such blind landings in practice, utilizing a "bent" radio beam that leads them down safely to the field. TWA has been experimenting with the same system. Another method allows the pilot to "see" his landing field on the fluorescent screen of a cathode-ray tube in the cockpit, a short-wave transmitter on the field providing a point of

(Continued to page 126A)





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G-E MAZDA
Photoflash lamps
No. 10 . . . 15¢ list
Other sizes to fit your needs



(Continued from page 124A)

light on the screen that is lined up with reference points of light obtained electrically from the artificial horizon on the instrument panel. Very narrow radio beams of less than one meter in wave length are being investigated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for use in blind landings. The Army Air Corps has worked out a blind-landing technique useful with any of the different radio guides, in which the automatic pilot is used to hold the plane in a "let down" glide after it passes over the radio landing approach beacon. With the plane descending in a safe landing position and with wheels and flaps down it practically lands itself. Airplanes are already making instrument approaches to airports but are not permitted to land unless there is half a mile visibility on the ground and a ceiling of at least 600 feet.

Another use to which the cathode-ray tube is being put is a hook-up by which "panoramic" reception from several different ground radio stations, obtained via the plane's radio compass loop, is shown visually on the screen. The angles between the different ground stations to the plane gives the pilot an accurate "fix" of his position. Another system allows the pilot to pre-select several ground stations, and to then obtain their directions one at a time simply by pressing a button that operates the small electric motor that revolves the loop mechanism. A still additional improvement lines the ground stations up in reference to true north instead of magnetic north, eliminating the need to figure variation.

For point-to-point transmission on the ground the air-line ground stations are working out new ideas in directional antennas that are revolutionizing radio communication. The new antenna systems throw as much as eighty per cent of the energy in one direction, focusing the power along a path toward the receiving station and reducing interference with other stations. Fractions of the power formerly needed to work long distances are being used. Such a directional antenna system consists of two parallel vertical wires, one of which radiates the signals and the other of which acts as the reflector. A few years ago stringing up an antenna was a haphazard job that could be done in a few hours but now the engineers spend as much as a week in plotting radiation patterns and making slight changes in the system to get the best results.

On aircraft, signal strength can be controlled to some extent to radiate either in a fore-and-aft direction or at right angles to the path of flight merely by changing the length of the trailing transmission antenna. On Howard Hughes' world-circling Lockheed an electric reel was used for letting the antenna out to exactly the proper length, practically doubling the radiation in the direction desired.

The new directional ground antennas are being experimented with in the modernization of American Air Lines' radio system, which comprises sixty-six different transmitters in thirty-seven different stations, making it one of the largest private radio systems in the country. The radio network operates twenty-four hours a day over 6,700 miles of airways. New highpowered Bendix transmitters are being installed to operate on any one of ten frequencies which is selected by the operator by simply dialing a number. The sets provide 1,000 watts for voice and 1,250 watts for long-distance radiotelegraph. The Newark and Chicago stations of the system each has four transmitters with an operator on continuous duty at each set, two of them engaged in ground-to-plane transmission and the other two occupied with point-to-point radiotelegraph, flight contact, and weather reports. The system employs 175 operators and twenty-nine maintenance engineers and mechanics, including teletype personnel.

For convenience in arranging frequencies and schedules the major air lines have organized Aeronautical Radio, Inc., a nonprofit organization that handles the ninetynine different frequencies used by more than 250 ground stations and 350 aircraft stations in the country. The organization is working with the radio development section of the Bureau of Air Commerce on a long-range program of putting short waves to use, including the new frequencies between one and ten meters that recently have been assigned to aviation.

Names and addresses of manufacturers and dealers in articles described in this magazine will be furnished by our Bureau of Information upon request accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelope.





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# **Teaching Wild Animals** New Stunts

(Continued from Coloroto Section)

stunts. Training starts when they are about eighteen months old. An intricate act such as the equestrian performance may take six months or longer to perfect, although an intelligent seal learns a simple stunt in a few days—as soon as he learns not to be frightened and that he will be rewarded with a piece of fish for doing what he is told.

"In the equestrian act there is one thing I would like to teach the ringmaster seal. I would like the ringmaster to toss hunks of fish to the mounted seals as rewards, but so far every piece of fish the ringmaster gets vanishes right there and I have to feed the mounted seals myself."

# Ice Crusher on Wall Bracket Chops Ice in Three Sizes

Built to fit into a slotted wall bracket that accommodates other kitchen tools, a hand-cranked ice crusher just brought out will deliver ice in three sizes. A flick of the finger changes it from fine to medium and coarse. The working parts are all nonrusting stainless steel. The ice cup is of colored plastic.



# Mining a Glacier

(Continued from page 53)

perature of 150 degrees Fahrenheit. Deep crevasses in the ice breathe it also.

The crater is surprisingly big. Mountaintop distances are always magnified because you can't walk fast at high altitudes without stopping often for breath, and in this case it is particularly hard going because the snow and ice are honeycombed by the wind into thousands of pinnacles each about two feet high.

Eventually the visitor reaches a spot where several men, hunched against the wind, are working. In perfect harmony



Ice and snow-encrusted cabin after severe blizzard has swept the mountaintop

with the frigid surroundings, their Arctic garb is crusted with ice and their faces are a leathery Eskimo brown. As a protection against the extreme cold, the glaring sun, and the driving wind, they cover their skin with a special preparation consisting of equal parts olive oil and vinegar and a few drops of iodine. To prevent snow blindness as well as eye injuries from the tiny wind-driven ice pellets, they wear colored goggles with shielded sides. For warmth they have parkas lined around the face with wolverine fur, the one part of their clothing to which ice will not cling.

Some of the men are digging holes with pick and shovel-test pits from which to get samples of the sulphur ore for laboratory examination. Others are operating a gasoline-engined diamond drill. One test

(Continued to page 131A)



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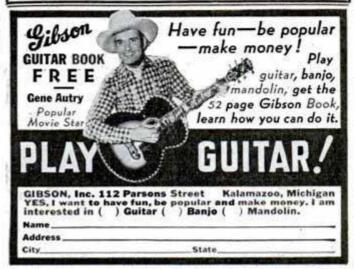
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(Continued from page 129A

hole that goes down sixty-eight feet through solid ice was abandoned when the drillers found no sign of rock bottom. The hole is four feet in diameter-just room enough for one man at a time to hack the ice away while a helper at the surface hauled up the buckets. You can picture the plight of the workman-alone in the bottom of the shaft, close-quartered with flint-like ice at his feet and at his elbows. and icy blue shadows far above. At least once or twice he must have imagined the floor giving way and dumping him into some hot cavern in the maw of the crater.

In an attempt to find how deep the ice really is in the middle of the crater, Dean and his crew put the diamond drill to work. It was still chipping through ice at 308 feet. They had no more drill rod. All but one of several other drill holes reached

through to sulphur.

At the edge of the crater, the visitor looks down into ice crevasses 200 or 300 feet deep, a vacant blue to the bottom. Perilous as this may seem, men work deep in those crevasses. One man, lowered 150 feet down on a stout rope in search of precious yellow samples, shouts, "Come on in, the ice is fine."

The wind suddenly becomes colder and noisier, and a new fog, phantomlike, forms out of nowhere, stinging faces and hurrying on its way to form a "cloud cap" at the lee side of the summit.

The cabin is a twelve by twelve foot room with an addition on one side full of bunks. It contains a radio that plays swing music, to the accompaniment of the high wind's roar. The crew eats at a square shiplap table. But they never get hot coffee because at this altitude water boils at too low a temperature.

A member of the original crew of seven that shouldered thirty-five-pound packs and labored seven miles to the cabin tells this story:

"When we took over this cabin it was solid ice inside," he said. "Three winters on this iceberg makes the snow hard as stone, and the snow in here had stood for eight years. We had a tough time hacking out room for our sleeping bags."

The mountaineers are well accustomed to blizzards. Three or four "good" storms, ordinarily lasting from two to four days,

(Continued to page 132A)

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(Continued from page 131A)

are part of the normal summer-weather menu on the summit. The wind reaches an estimated velocity of seventy-five to 100 miles an hour. Between storms the temperature varies from twenty or so degrees below zero to thirty-five degrees in the shade, or warm enough for shirt-sleeve working in the sun.

"We get an electric storm once in a while," one of the men says. "One time when we were sitting here at dinner there was a blinding flash and a wild crackling noise and the sparks hopped around in front of our faces. The lightning had skipped the guy cables outside. It came in through the wall over there, crossed our dinner table, and crashed through that window. On the way out it melted a hole through a washpan by the window."

More feared by the workmen than either the storms or the ice hazards of the summit is the sulphide gas that often catches them unaware in the prospecting holes. All of them have had close brushes with death

after inhaling the gas.

As a result of five full summers of prospecting and many conferences with experts, Dean is convinced this mineral wealth can be mined profitably despite the extreme barriers. His projected ninemile tram, from the summit crater to a base with a year-around water supply, would consist of a chain of towers and suspensions as high as two or three hundred feet above the surface of the mountainside in places, carrying half-ton capacity buckets spaced three or four hundred feet apart. The weight of descending ore would more than offset the weight of ascending freight and passengers. Under a permanent shelter, the upper end of the tram would connect with a 1,500-foot ventilated tunnel leading under the dome of the mountain into the beds of ore.

Dean pictures a complete mining community built into the mountainside, with living quarters, stores and recreational facilities deep inside where workmen would be immune from the ravages of high-altitude winters.

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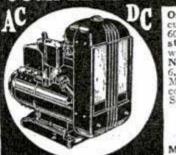
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# Trackers of the Highway

(Continued from page 37)

er arrests of the culprits as a result. This is especially true in Michigan, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut where state police are equipped with all the latest devices for war on crime.

"Time and again a local station announces a hit-and-run car last seen traveling in the direction of some neighboring village," says Commissioner Olander: "State Police Radio Station WRDS relays the announcement to patrol cars whose operators adjust their movements to head off the fleeing motorist.

"Checking of garages is standard practice in practically all cases where an apprehension is not made within a reasonable time after the accident. In Michigan we have a law which requires garages to report damaged vehicles to the police. Cooperation on the part of the garages is good. Much of our information comes from garages and service stations."

A garage man, as Mr. Benson points out, who has been supplied with information regarding mechanical or structural defects of a car involved in a crime can be of aid to the police even if the driver has attempted to cover his steps by hastily repainting his car, and straightening out the bent bumper or mudguard. Mr. Benson explains:

"Clues which tire experts discover from tire prints-wheels out of alinement, chassis out of alinement, uneven brake drums and similar deficiencies—are rarely thought about by the lawbreaker who is principally concerned with the external appearance of his car. These are dead giveaways which may be instrumental in effecting his arrest and conviction."

Cattle thieves of the southwest and freight and merchandise thieves of the east use trucks, so tire prints of truck tires are playing an increasingly important part in combating these types of crime.

"Truck and bus tires operate under their own peculiar conditions and have their individual problems of wear," says Mr. Benson. "Although the ordinary driver is not aware of it, it is a fact that truck tires generate heat that reaches over 300 degrees-eighty-eight degrees higher than the boiling point of water.

"Often the dual tires on the rear of a

truck are not properly mated. The inside tire paralleled on one side by its mate and in most instances mounted directly over the brake drum has less chance to cool and at the same time is subjected to greater heat. As a result the pressure in the inside tire increases more rapidly than that in the outside tire. This increased inflation makes it less flexible than the outside tire and consequently it carries more of the load. Again, a truck riding the center of a crowned road would be supported more by the two inside tires because of the shorter perpendicular distance from the axle to the road at those points.

"Knowing these facts, it does not take an expert long to identify a tire as having been used as an inside or outside dual truck tire. In some cases it is even possible to tell the general locality from which the truck came, as in the case of cambered roads.

"A tire sleuth can quickly determine from a tire print whether the truck leaving the scene of a crime is over-loaded. In some cases he may even make a general estimate as to its getaway speed. A tenply tire, for example, which is not driven in excess of forty miles an hour has a thirty per cent greater carrying capacity than the same tire driven at fifty-five miles an hour.

"These are some of the telltale clues revealed to the modern trackers of the highways. American tire manufacturers have spent \$55,000,000 on research in the past ten years. It is this intensive study and a thorough knowledge of their product that now make it possible to turn fingerprinting of tire treads to the use of the law."

Fingerprints of Fisk tires are made on a tread contact machine in the factory. When a new tread design goes into production, a print is produced and forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

To make such a print, the tire is inflated to the pressure it will use when mounted on a car wheel. The tread is inked and white paper placed under it. Then the tire is lowered and pressure equivalent to the weight of an automobile is exerted on it, and a perfect print of a normal tire is obtained.

¶Inquiries as to makers of articles described in Popular Mechanics, will be answered by our Bureau of Information upon receipt of return postage.

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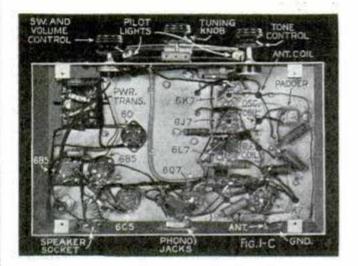


# PM Economy Nine Receiver

(Continued from page 99)

in this receiver are not expensive they should be of good quality and just as specified, to insure maximum results. A list of the original parts used in the model can be obtained from Popular Mechanics radio department without charge. The blueprint number is R-262. Inside dimensions of the cabinet shown in the photos are as follows:  $15\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide, 11 in. deep and 20 in. high. Any table-type cabinet or console of similar chassis-space size may be used.

When wiring the set keep all grid and plate leads as short as possible, and be sure the soldered connections are mechanically and electrically tight. No. 20 hookup wire



with push-back insulation is employed for all wiring; this wire is available with insulation in various colors. The antenna, oscillator and r.f. coils specified are provided with the color-coded leads indicated in diagrams Figs. 1 and 4. Rosin-core solder is recommended for all connections; do not use acid-core solder. Cable connections for the speaker plug are shown in Fig. 3 as viewed looking into the plug. Always be sure that this plug is inserted in the speaker-plug socket before turning on the set.

To balance the receiver, turn all four top I.F. transformer trimmer (Tr.) screws completely closed, with a small screwdriver, then turn them out about 34 of a turn. Next, turn the 3-gang variable condenser to minimum capacity, fully open position. Now screw the trimmer (Tr.) on the oscillator condenser section (C2) down tight and then back it off one full turn. Connect an-

(Continued to page 140A)



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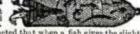
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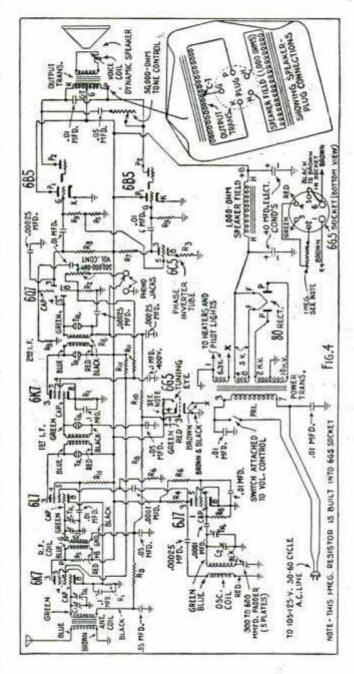


When writing please mention Popular Mechanics



### (Continued from page 138A)

tenna and ground and tune the set to some local station at about 1,400 kc. and adjust (C<sub>2</sub>) middle trimmer to make the pointer of the tuning dial correspond to the station frequency. Next tune off this station and adjust front and rear trimmers (C<sub>1</sub>) and (C<sub>3</sub>) to maximum noise. Now tune the set to about 600 kc., but not on a station, and turn the oscillator padder condenser ad-



justing screw to maximum noise. The next step is to turn the I.F. trimmers to maximum noise, and the final adjustment is to tune the receiver to a station that will close the tuning eye about half, at or near, 1,400 kc., then readjust the trimmers on (C1) and (C3) and the I.F. trimmers, for maximum volume and clarity. For perfect balance, follow steps in the order given.

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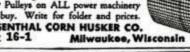
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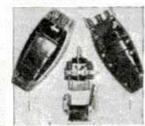
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# Flying Above the Weather

(Continued from page 27)

minute. But the passengers will be climbing only 300 feet per minute, at least as far as pressure changes are concerned. They will not experience the usual discomfort of a fast climb because the atmospheric pressure inside the cabin will be reduced at a slow and comfortable rate.

Shortly after taking off the pilot cuts in the cabin superchargers at low speed. At 5,000 feet the passengers will be in an atmosphere of only half that apparent altitude. At 10,000 feet the pilot shifts the superchargers to high speed and by the time he has climbed to 14,700 feet the apparent altitude inside the cabin is only 8,000 feet. At 20,000 feet the pressure inside the cabin is the same as at a 12,000foot altitude, still low enough for comfort. It will take about forty minutes of climbing for the pilot to reach his eruising altitude. In approaching his destination the pilot will start descending while still half an hour or more out, dropping at an efficient angle in order to recapture some of the power expended in the climb. During the descent, cabin pressures will be held at a rate of change more comfortable than is possible in present transports.

The Boeing pressure air liners will have two independent sets of supercharging and heating apparatus, either one of which can assume the full load.

Twenty thousand feet is just about the optimum altitude for passenger-carrying. When we go much higher than that all sorts of complications appear. The air becomes so thin that engines are hard to cool in spite of the low temperature. Gasoline starts to evaporate and fuel tanks and carburetors have to be supercharged. The cabin structure must be built strong enough to withstand pressures of more than 1,000 pounds per square foot. Air is not a good insulator above 25,000 feet and we run into spark-plug trouble.

To me, predictions that we will be flying at 100,000-foot, 50,000-foot, or even 35,000-foot levels within five or ten years are ridiculous. By that I don't mean that higher flight is impossible or that it won't be done now and then as a matter of research or for military purposes, but that the idea now appears impractical as a passenger-carrying project.



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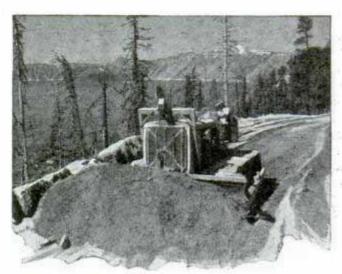
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(Continued from page 21)

tractor-grader it is customary to first cut a "shelf" from which grading operations can follow. A blade mounted on the front of a tractor is ideal for this. The U.S. Forest Service has developed such a tool called



Tractor equipped with bulldozer building rim road at east edge of Crater lake

a "trailbuilder." Its blade is set at an angle so it cuts into the bank with the point and delivers the materials toward the rear. The blade also is reversible and can be set at a right angle to the tractor axis, whereupon it becomes a bulldozer.

Earth-moving operations, especially in rolling country where "cut and fill" constitutes much of the work, may be classified in general as, loosening, loading, transporting, dumping, spreading and compacting. Sometimes several of these are done at one time, or by one piece of equipment. For example, an elevating grader may loosen and load. Again, scrapers may load dirt without any previous loosening and may transport, dump and spread it.

When earth is "drifted" with a bulldozer the tractor is kept on the same path with each successive trip. This causes the material wasted over the ends of the blade to fall in windrows. After the windrows are formed they serve to hold the material in front of the scraper or blade and thereby prevent wastage. On big jobs these dozers work in pairs, often moving an amount of earth rivaling that of a landslide.

The elevating grader is considered one of the most efficient pieces of equipment in earth removal for side casting earth directly into an embankment or fill, or for loading trucks or tractor wagons for hauling to a fill. The apparatus is essentially a

rt

plow, disk shaped, and a belt conveyor mounted on a frame supported by four wheels. It is drawn by the tractor, the plow cutting the soil and turning it onto the belt. The belt carries the material upward and finally discharges it.

When fills are made, the subsequent settlement problem is of great importance Usually the earth is spread in layers with bulldozers and blade graders, after which the compacting is done with tractor-drawn tamping rollers also called "sheep-foot tampers." These are heavy hollow cylinders with projecting steel pins or feet, eight or nine inches long, spaced all around the surface. As the roller is pulled forward over a layer of loose soil, the feet penetrate the layer and drive some of it down, compressing it to great density.

The earth borer, which contributes its share to labor-saving equipment, is especially valuable in setting poles. The equipment generally is mounted on a twentyfive horsepower tractor. The boring bit whirls downward to dig a hole quickly and then the equipment hoists the pole so it can be placed into position.

Terracing is being used more and more 3 today as a means of soil-erosion control



One of the biggest trucks ever made for earth movement moves eighty-five cubic yards per hour

Present-day methods and equipment, as in other great earth-moving projects, have made it possible to build bigger and better terraces not possible a few years ago with hand labor. Blade graders, elevating graders and terracers of different sizes do the work behind track-type tractors of corresponding size.

Inquiries as to makers of articles described in Popular Mechanics, will be answered by our Bureau of Information upon receipt of return postage.



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Signal Tower 75c NOTE LOW PRICES Other Buildings Residences (each)



# "They're Off!" to New Thrills

(Continued from page 75)

had many arguments as to whether all four hoofs of a horse ever leave the ground at once. It was not until men developed cameras with fast lenses and shutters that it was proved that all the hoofs of some horses are completely off the turf at once while making fast strides for the wire.

Photography has played a big part in the improvement of American racing. Photofinish outfits have given race fans added confidence as the camera doesn't lie if properly installed. Business has doubled at many tracks that have adapted photofinish cameras to decide nose finishes.

At Hollywood Park a large silver screen has been built in the inclosed paddock. After a race the picture of the finish is flashed on the screen for fifteen minutes.

Some tracks also hire several miniature movie cameramen, to film the race from different points around the mile oval. If rough riding is charged, one or more of the films usually reveal the episode. Several tracks are experimenting with a motion-picture camera that can follow the horses around the track from its high position on the grandstand roof. The camera is equipped with powerful telephoto lens. To be effective it must be able to keep well in focus and take sharp close-ups that will reveal "wild west" riding by jockeys.

Most tracks today have a horse ambulance, a trailer-like affair usually pulled by a truck or tractor. It is low built, the floor being only six inches from the ground. Lame horses easily can be led into it. On an overhead beam is a block and tackle for lifting in sick horses.

It takes a dozen or more men to keep a mile track in good shape. Where the weather is dry, it is often necessary to sprinkle the track after every race. The sprinkler is followed by two tractors, dragging harrows to keep the "cushion," as the top of the track is called, in fast shape. Rain brings mud and that's another problem for the track maintenance crew. The track must be drained as well as possible. Pools of water are filled with dry dirt.

Race-track people have their own lingo, just as circus, railroad, motion-picture, and other groups have. "Swipes" are the fellows who manicure and massage the

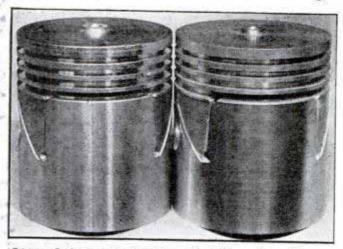
(Continued to page 149A)

# Making Metal Smooth as Glass

(Continued from page 3)

moving parts, thus resulting in longer life for machines.

A part treated by this process appears to the eye to have a beautiful nickel finish, but under the microscope, or by microphotography, it appears black because no scratches remain to reflect light. A socalled bright mirror finish entirely satisfactory to the eye does not necessarily mean that all the surface material has been removed from the metal. If the surface still appears bright when microphotography is used, it means that there are enough



Piston before and after Superfinishing. Smooth surface at right fails to reflect light

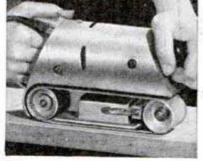
tiny ridges to reflect light to the camera's eye and that the finish contains numerous defects.

So fine are Superfinished surfaces that it is necessary to measure them with an Abbott Profilometer, a special instrument whose readings are in millionths of an inch. This instrument uses cathode rays to reveal the character of a surface as a tiny diamond point is drawn over the surface. Movement of the diamond tip up and down as it follows the irregularities in the surface sets up an electric current that is strong or weak in proportion to the height or the depth of the irregularities. The current is amplified and sent to a meter which gives a reading on the roughness of the surface in terms of millionths of an inch.

Among the parts of Chrysler Corporation automobiles which have been treated successfully by the new process are crankshafts, camshafts, cams, pistons, brake shoes and brake drums, tappet heads, tappet stems, valve stems, flywheel clutch faces, cylinder block line bearings and pis-

(Continued to page 148A)

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ton pins-almost all the working parts of the engine.

As outlined by the developers, these two advantages are obtained through use of the Superfinish method:

First, the crystalline surface, when exposed in an undisturbed condition, provides a much finer surface for supporting



Metal surface so smooth that it reflects the photographer taking its picture

oil film, carrying off heat and load-carrying capacity on either a moving or static part.

Second, the mechanical work produces a true surface which allows a greater contact and a more constant contact so that the pressure on the oil is uniform and eliminates surface points and projections above the bearing surface that rupture oil films under high pressures and thereby permit metal-to-metal contact that will wear or destroy a bearing.

# Soil Pasteurizer Makes War on Enemies of Plants

Man's newest weapons in the eternal war on insects and other enemies of plants are an electric soil pasteurizer and a "hot box." Wedge-shaped metal strips of the pasteurizer are thrust into the soil of the greenhouse "flats," in which young plants are started. Electric current generates heat in the soil, kills the pricroorganisms, insects, weed seeds and other elements harmful to the plant. The treatment takes only six or eight minutes. The hot box is a chamber in which flowering plants are placed to rid them of the troublesome cyclamen mite.

du.

(Continued from page 146)

thoroughbreds. A "run-out bit" keeps a horse from racing wide on a turn. A jockev who shuts off other horses is called a "herder." A horse that gallops last all the way is said to have "carried the target."

Maybe you wouldn't expect to find monkeys, dogs, cats, goats, ducks, chickens, sheep and various other pets wandering around the stable area, but you will at most tracks. They are companions for the horses and help to make the thoroughbreds less nervous.

Everything is done to make the horses comfortable in their stables which are made as draftproof as possible. At Santa Anita they even have a pile of sand for the horses to roll in. This same track maintains an X-ray room for injured bangtails.

# A New Frontier

(Continued from page 59)

To see the cabins of some of the trappers, prospectors, and homesteaders in the more remote sections of the northwest is to be reminded of the days of the Pilgrim Fathers. Both had the same materials and tools with which to work and so achieved the same results. Yet these modern pioneers do not think of their life as one of hardship. They pity the city dweller, with all his conveniences, for his lack of freedom and his dependence on others.

The 1930 census showed there were only about 60,000 people in Alaska, half whites, and half natives, in a territory of 586,400 square miles-about one person to every ten square miles. But that doesn't tell half the story. Three-fourths of these people live on the coast, only one-fourth in the great interior. And this one-fourth lives mostly along the Yukon river or the Alaska railroad, the main routes of travel. Most of them have never been more than a few miles from home. That accounts for the fact that there are vast unpopulated areas where one can travel hundreds of miles without seeing a single human being. In most of the interior the population probably averages less than one person to every thirty square miles.

Yet some authorities estimate that about one-fifth of the total area of Alaska, about 64,000,000 acres, is suitable for agriculture. It lies mostly in the interior. There is about

(Continued to page 150A)



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Dept. V-19 PIONEER MFG. CO. West Allis, Wis. (Continued from page 149A)

the same amount of grazing land. The census showed that there were about 9,600 acres of improved land in 1930. There is about the same proportion of agricultural land in northwestern Canada.

Here are some of the advantages of life in the wilds of the north. There are no poisonous snakes, no snakes at all, for that matter. There are no poisonous plants, berries or mushrooms—at least we couldn't find any, and we sampled everything we could find. Meat can be obtained almost anywhere. Reliable estimates place the number of caribou in Alaska alone at more than 2,000,000. Moose are numerous and almost as tame as cattle in some parts of the country. The meat is as good as any beef. If you like fishing, you will be in a fisherman's heaven. The one bad pest is the mosquito.

On land suitable for agriculture, hay, small grains and most of the vegetable crops of the more northern states can be grown very successfully. During the summer, the long days make up for the shorter season, so that the total hours of sunlight between spring and autumn frosts are about the same as in localities farther south. The crops mature rapidly, producing vegetables of fine quality.

But, you say, where is the market for these crops? There is no market at present. These farms are subsistence farms, as were those of our pioneer forefathers. For his money crop, the northern pioneer can trap, fish, mine, raise fur animals, guide hunting parties or cut cordwood for nearby settlements—to mention only a few possibilities.

Even the steady cold winter is often an advantage. The average winter temperature is around zero, although acclimated inhabitants prefer the calm crisp clear days of ten to thirty below. Then one can work in the timber in shirt sleeves without getting too hot. That seems odd, but Alaskans have a saying that "as long as you can keep cool you are not apt to freeze." It is dampness, such as perspiration, that is dangerous in winter. You must learn to dress cool enough, not warm enough.

The constant cold preserves food perfectly. Frozen carcasses stay fresh all winter. Bread, cakes, pies and pastries all are kept fresh by freezing and wrapping in waxed paper to prevent them from drying out. Even left-over beans or stews can be kept for months. Just freeze them in a tight container, turn them out like loaves, wrap in waxed paper and store in the woodshed or cache.

Housing is one of the simplest problems for the northern pioneer. Most of the interior country is covered with a fair growth of spruce or jackpine. Both make good cabin logs. It has been demonstrated many times at Fairbanks and Dawson that a properly built log cabin is as warm and comfortable as the most modern insulated house. Clothing is the biggest economic problem, although native garments can be worn—the moose-hide moccasins and mittens of the Athabascan Indians, or the mukluk boots, caribou socks and parkas of the Eskimos. The main luxury of most "old-timers" is woolen underwear, which they wear both winter and summer. They say it keeps them healthy.

This brings us to the health problem. We have gone through the sticks all summer, half the time wet to the skin from tramping through wet brush or wading streams. And not once did we have a cold while we were away from habitations. When we did come to a village, though, we often caught cold, regardless of our physical condition.

But what about the danger of accidents? What if one should break a leg, or have appendicitis? There are many pursuits right here at home that have more risks. Some will say that the life of the pioneer is alright for a young man but not for a young woman. But doctors with long experience in the north claim that a woman of average health and strength, such as the girl who goes out for school athletics, often can outdo a man in the north. She has more native stamina. It has been proved many times among tribes of Indians and Eskimos that the women survive long ordeals better than the men.

We traveled this great interior territory from southern British Columbia to Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska, and it offers splendid opportunities to those who want to strike out for themselves. The principal requirements are moderately good health, plus the ambition and willingness to adapt oneself to whatever conditions one may encounter in a frontier country—and make the best of them.





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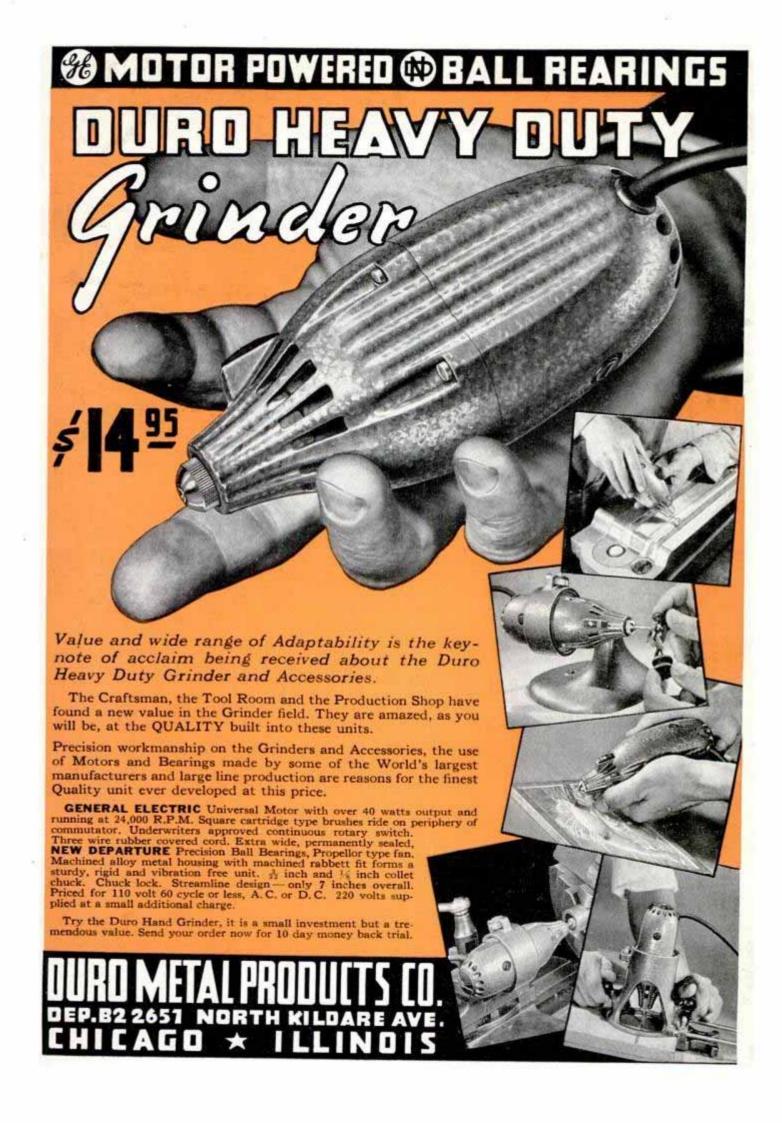
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